WORLD SOCCER

The INTERNATIONAL Magazine

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RUUD GULLIT

Special interview

England's Euro-draw

Countdown to West Germany

WORLD SOCCER

THE INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE

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CRUYFF QUI

JÜRGEN SPARWASSER, the East German whose historic goal beat West Germany during the 1974 World Cup finals, has escaped to the west. The former Magdeburg star asked for refuge in Saarbrücken during a veterans' tournament. Previous exiles from East Germany include players Frank Lippmann (now Mannheim), Jürgen Pahl (now in Turkey), Norbert Nachtweih (central defence with Bayern Munich) and Lutz Eigendorf (killed in a car crash). Sparwasser, now 39, has a wife and daughter in the East.

JOHAN CRUYFF has walked out as boss of Ajax Amsterdam, eight months after steering them back to European glory in the Cup-winners' Cup.

This is the third time Cruyff has turned his back on Ajax — and it could prove to be the last. The first time was his record-breaking £992,000 transfer to Barcelona in 1973; the second was his shock switch to old rivals Feyenoord in 1983; now Cruyff has gone again after a row with his directors.

Cruyff has always been a man of individual views and never reluctant to share them. He was sent off at 18 in one of his first internationals for an altercation with the East German referee Rüdi Glöckner — just the first in a string of disputes with officials which punctuated his early career with Ajax and then in Spain with Barcelona.

As a manager Cruyff extended his reputation for plain talking. Many of his players did not like it. Personal disagreement has played a part in the departures from Ajax over the past eight months of no fewer than four star names: Marco Van Basten, Sonny Silooy, Peter Boeve and, most recently, Frank Rijkaard.

Cruyff has frequently courted anger from above — whether from the Dutch federation, the KNVB, with his occasional refusal to release players for international duty, or from his own board for his outspoken comments.

After Cruyff returned to Ajax, in team management, in 1985, a public peace was maintained. Until last summer. Then Cruyff spoke out critically about board policy which saw the better, older players regularly sold off. He warned that, although a talented new generation was breaking through, there could be no return to the glory days unless the more experienced players found it worth their while to stay in Amsterdam.

While his words were left to simmer, Cruyff crossed swords with Dutch Footballer of the Year Rijkaard, who walked out of training at the end of September vowing never to return.

The relationship between the two men had been uncertain ever since

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RETURN IN SIG

ENGLISH clubs are back in Europe next season — IF all is quiet at the European championship finals in West Germany in June.

That was the positive outcome of the UEFA executive meeting in Monte Carlo after submissions from FA chairman Bert Millichip and Football League president Philip Carter.

What restrictions may yet be imposed on that first step back into the European mainstream must be decided by UEFA's next get-together, in Scotland on May 3.

Security problems

As general secretary Hans Bangerter pointed out, UEFA must sort out a policy which takes account of refusals by individual countries to play host to English fans because of the security problems.

TS

the start of last year when Cruyff persuaded Rijkaard to rip up an agreement to transfer to PSV Eindhoven.

At the start of this season Cruyff made Rijkaard captain, then appointed Jan Wouters instead. The two argued and Rijkaard walked out, vowing: "I will never play for Cruyff again."

Cruyff replied: "In that case, seeing his contract does not expire until the summer of 1989, I hope he is ready to spend 18 months doing nothing."

Rijkaard, in fact, had already signed a pre-contract with Milan. But, in the meantime, the Ajax board were ready to cut their losses and loan Rijkaard out to Sporting Lisbon for the rest of the season.

The idea also appealed to Rijkaard who is desperately keen to stay in shape and in form for the European championships.

On Monday, January 4, out of the blue, Cruyff suddenly announced that he had taken a leaf out of Rijkaard's book — and walked out. He blamed a breakdown in talks on a new contract of his own.

Cruyff believed he had been promised a two-year deal which guaranteed him a free hand not only in running the team, but in transfer dealings. When there were unexplained delays in drawing up the new agreement Cruyff demanded a meeting with president Ton Harmsen. But when Cruyff walked in to talk things over he found not only Harmsen, but the entire board, awaiting him. When details of their discussions were leaked to the media, Cruyff felt it was the last straw and quit.

Harmsen professed his surprise, saying: "I've stood by him for two and a half years. I've looked on him as a son and I don't think one should say goodbye in such a way."

The players asked club surgeon Co Greep to mediate between Cruyff and the board. Greep spent one fruitless day at the task. Cruyff said: "This has been one of the biggest disappointments of my life. People I had trusted have betrayed me."

Speculation was swiftly rife that Cruyff would shortly be contracted by Milan or Barcelona or Racing Club de Paris or even Bayer Leverkusen.

Alianza — that last picture before tragedy struck

TWO faces of tragedy . . .

Top picture: Alianza of Lima line up before their fateful last match, a 1-0 win away to Deportivo of Pucallpa in the Peruvian championship. The following day the travelling first-team squad plus coach Marcos Calderon, several directors, officials and supporters were wiped out in a Pacific beach plane crash.

Lower picture: Guest and youth players in the striped Alianza shirts line up with stars from Independiente of Argentina before the start of a fund-raising benefit match in aid of the plane victims' families.

Independiente won 2-1 in front of a capacity 45,000 crowd — many of whom had earlier swamped the stadium in flowers and followed the funeral processions.

Alianza's greatest local rivals, Universitario, formally requested that the federation declare Alianza as champions while Alianza president, Agustin Merino, suggested that the club might withdraw from competition for a year to reform.

However, after the federation suspended the championship for two weeks, it was decided to play on.

Veteran players Teofilo Cubillas (a director of the club) and Cesar Cueto have come out of retirement to form a team along with players from the youth sections plus four Chileans — Letelier, Quiros, Pinto and Huerta — loaned by Colo-Colo of Santiago.

Two Bolivian clubs, Blooming and The Strongest (themselves once stricken by an air disaster)have also offered players on loan.

The New Alianza: — Goalkeeper: Jose Letelier, (loan from Colo-Colo). Defenders: Cesar Espino (from the Alianza reserves), Reinoso (youth section), Parko Quiros (loan from Colo-Colo), Roberto Rojas (ex-international, out of retirement).

Midfield: Valencia (from reserves), Juan Illescas (from reserves), Francisco Huerta (loan from Colo-Colo). Attack: Teofilo Cubillas (director, out of retirement), Vallejos (youth section), Rodriguez (from reserves), Cesar Cueto (out of retirement).

30 YEARS AGO, ON FEBRUARY 6 . . .

DUNCAN EDWARDS was one of eight Manchester United players who died from injuries suffered in the Munich air disaster . . . exactly 30 years ago, on February 6, 1958.

HT BUT NOT FOR LIVERPOOL

It had always been probable, when UEFA lifted the indefinite suspension imposed after the Heysel disaster, that only a handful of clubs would be allowed back into the three tournaments.

Now, time and Liverpool's domestic domination, appear to be creating their own limit.

Liverpool are suspended for three years beyond the end of the overall ban. Their lead in the championship appears impregnable and, of course, only the national champions are allowed into the European Cup.

Thus next season's competition will go ahead without English interest. As for the UEFA Cup, the absence of English clubs over the past three years has whittled away at the coefficient which decides how many entrants each country shall provide.

England is now assured of only two clubs in the UEFA Cup, compared with the maximum four at the time of Heysel.

The Cup-winners' Cup is open, as ever, to the FA Cup-winners (or the runners-up if the winner's are also national champions).

Presumably, the two UEFA Cup places would go to the winners of the Littlewoods-sponsored League Cup, and to the First Division runners-up.

First, however, comes the behaviour hurdle of the European championship and the tinderbox prospect of Europe's two most notorious sets of fans — the English and the Dutch — coming face to face in Düsseldorf in June.

England may well have cause to be grateful that it was the security-effective West Germans who won the right to host these finals.

TED CROKER'S VIEW and THE EUROPEAN DRAW — See pages 4 and 5.

SECURI TO RE-

TED CROKER, chief executive of the Football Association, is the man pulling together England's championship security operation. The prospect of the clubs' return to international competition depends heavily on how England's fans behave in West Germany in June. Here Croker explains the FA's proposals for supporter security – and discusses wider aspects of the world game, including the American bid to host the 1994 World Cup.

INTERVIEW BY KEIR RADNEDGE

HOW much preparatory work has already been put towards security measures to try to achieve peace at the European finals?

We've already held preliminary discussions about security and I have put our proposals to UEFA. But I have stressed to them that these were preliminary ideas. We have not yet had discussions with government officials, the police, transport police, foreign office and Ministry of Defence regarding all our troops out in Germany, simply because we had to wait for the draw. We couldn't have meaningful discussions until we knew, literally, where we were going.

The draw has now shown up the enormous potential difference in approach between playing the Soviet Union in Frankfurt and playing Holland in Düsseldorf. Now that the draw has been made we need to come to speedy decisions about tickets because applications will start flooding in to us and to travel agents and we will then start to get a picture of the numbers of tickets we will need.

Satisfying demand will only be in respect of people who seem to be responsible supporters. This is where, of course, you can undoubtedly make mistakes. One can only take all possible precautions.

What we intend to do as regards the troops stationed in Germany will be to use the procedure as for the match against West Germany in Düsseldorf earlier this season. We will issue tickets to the units once they have found out how many they would like. Individuals concerned will be informed that these tickets are for their own use and for close personal friends of whom names and addresses will need to be given — and only for people living in Germany. They will not be allowed to send tickets back to the UK. So the tickets issued there will be for the use of personnel who are already in Germany, and will be tightly controlled by the commanding officers of each of the units.

At home we will sell through certain travel agents. We will vet travel agents who must be established travel firms, IATA-approved and ABTA-approved, and then it will be on the basis of package tours which must include travel, accommodation and tickets. The agents must complete security forms in respect of everybody's name, address, passport number — full details of individuals including photographs.

We will then, probably — I must stress these are not final decisions — accept applications from members of the general public who can supply full details of their membership of one of the membership schemes of one of the league clubs, or the fact that they are a season ticket holder of a club. Then we will ask the club if there is any reason why this person should not have a ticket.

We will also check all of these applications, whether made through travel agents, by individuals or clubs, against the exclusion order list which has been in existence now since August, anyone who has been subject to an exclusion order in the past, or is under one at the moment, will not be sold a ticket.

These are the sort of details to which anyone who wants to buy a ticket for the European championship will have to submit.

PACKAGE deals are often criticised because of the in-built costs. But I suppose you see this as a further measure of security because they speak for the financial standing of individuals involved?

Absolutely. It means that they're not going to be a burden on the British embassy over there. We can't be sure that they'll come to the end with money still in their pocket, but fortunately our experience from tournaments such as in Spain and Mexico, is that it's far less of a problem when people go out to see three matches than one individual match. Then people dash out and know that whatever money they have in their pockets they can spend it all on drink if they want, as long as they've got a return ticket.

However, when it's for seven or eight days and they know they are going to have plenty of time to absorb alcohol, there isn't the same pressure on them. Added to that, the majority, I would hope, would also want to stay on another three days in case we reach the semi-finals and then maybe another three days beyond that to the final itself.

So generally it makes for a more stable situation than the one-off match. As long as we take every possible precaution we hope that we will be successful.

AND if England do reach the semi-finals and the final, what about ticket availability then?

First, people may well be able to buy packages which include a semi-final and final. On the other hand, I'm sure there will be tickets available at the time of the finals. Countries which have taken ticket allocations in the hope of reaching the latter stages and do not make it, will want to unload their tickets. I have no doubt there will be tickets.

LOOKING ahead, you have been the subject of some personal publicity concerning a possible role in the American bid for the 1994 World Cup. Is this where you see your future after retirement next year from the FA?

I must say I'm rather embarrassed and to some extent annoyed by all the publicity. I had an unsolicited approach asking if I would be available to advise the Americans regarding the 1994 World Cup. That leaked out from somewhere and I quite understand that people in America were put out by the impression created. In fact, while I would be happy to be involved and to help where I can, I really am not and have never, been touting myself around looking for a job. Anyway, I don't retire from the FA for another year and a lot could happen in that time.

HOW do you view the prospect of the World Cup being staged in the United States?

It would be a tremendous boost for the international game to have the United States totally involved in soccer, as they would have to become for the next six years in order to stage the tournament. We know all about the amount of youth soccer being played in America. But there have been millions involved in it for at least the last 15 years, to my certain knowledge. This means today that it is not just those who are playing who are interested, there is also a generation who have ceased to play — the parents of today — who will have retained their interest in the game.

So I think that the number of people in America who would be interested in football at the highest level is enormous. The numbers they had attending matches at the Olympic tournament showed that. I think that the prospect of staging the World Cup, and with the benefit of six years to take advantage of that peak, would be a wonderful opportunity which they would not miss.

DO you think that the international image of soccer in the United States was harmed more than it was improved by the razzmataz which accompanied the North American Soccer League experiment?

I believe the biggest problem in those days was that the NASL ran ahead of the federation and if you look at any successful footballing country, the secret is that you need a very strong association and a league to go along with it. To have the league extremely strong and the association relatively weaker is the wrong way around. I'm not being wise after the event as far as the US is concerned.

I remember saying to the NASL officials when I was there in the late 1970s, when they were in a big office block on the Fifth Avenue, I think, that if they really wanted to do football a service in America they should have offered one floor of the building to the association, the United States Soccer Federation, who were then stuck in tatty offices in the Empire State Building.

I advised them to bring the federation over and help give them some status because that is what the game there would need. Now the league has disappeared and the federation goes on. You see, the federation or association is the ongoing commodity in any country's football.

IN most countries the league is part of the federation. I know that has provided problems in countries such as Spain, West Germany, Italy, Holland and Portugal. But do you think it is a development which will eventually be accepted in England?

It's true it has been talked about and has often been suggested as a good idea. I might even have said that when I took on this job 15 years ago. But my experience since then has been that such countries — where the two organisations are in virtually the same building and the league is part of the federation — don't operate as successfully or as amicably as the Football Asso-

SECOND ISRAEL CL

by Nick Gibbs

ENGLAND play Israel at full international level for the second time on February 17. The first occasion was two years ago as England prepared for the Mexico World Cup Finals.

This second meeting between the two countries serves a similar function for Bobby Robson and his squad. The European Championship Finals are the goal for England and the Israel game is the start of a five-match build-up which will see them face Holland, Hungary, Scotland and Colombia.

The history of the Israeli national side has, to say the least, had its ups and downs. In 1976, the Asian Football Confederation expelled Israel, along with Taiwan, for political reasons rather than any footballing reason. This decision invoked the wrath of FIFA who, in response, threatened to eject the AFC.

FIFA, on second thoughts, decided that this was not a good idea since it would have exorcised a substantial part of the world's population from the game.

Since then, Israel, the only direct members of FIFA, have contested qualification for the World Cup in the European section (1978 and 1982) and the Oceania group (1986 and 1990). In 1958, Israel thought they had qualified for the finals in

TY-KEY ENTRY

ciation does with the Football League.

FA-League relationships in the last ten or 12 years have been absolutely first-class. We have a very good working arrangement and when I look at other countries where the FA and league are integrated I think they have more problems. I don't want to talk about other people's internal problems, but there certainly are countries which have much bigger problems than ours, where the federation and the league are all part of one unit.

It's the old story that years ago people would look at those other countries and simply say: "Well, they do things differently, why don't we do that too?" But my experience over the years is that it's much better to have some geographical distance between you and work very closely, rather than be in the same building, but very much apart.

Discord

DO you see the explosion of commercialisation as being to blame for much of the administrative discord?

The money — commercial income and television income — is probably the biggest single problem between associations and leagues. No doubt at all. Clubs need money for their financial purposes and the associations want money to develop the game at grass roots. It's a perpetual problem which has to be resolved. It's an interesting subject, this league and association conflict.

Look at the United States again and the World Cup. One of the important areas they are considering now is the development of their national side. I would hope that will be the top priority.

The first issue which needs to be decided if they get the World Cup — above all else I would say — is how they are going to get a national team which will compete meaningfully in the tournament. They won't do that domestically without a national club competition structure.

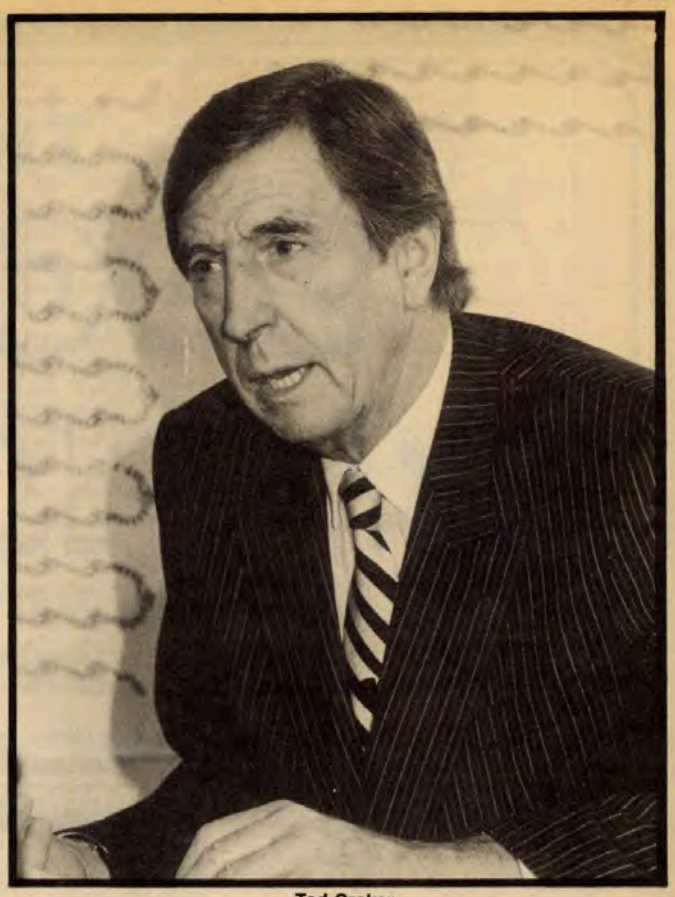
So they must learn from what we've learned in Europe. One had to be extremely careful about making recommendations on issues in a country thousands of miles away. But I can't help thinking of the way lesser football countries have been able to develop in Europe because of the system which exists.

The Americans have got to know a lot more about what goes on in Europe and they've got to make sure ways are found to take advantage of the system — as the Danes have. One of the reasons Denmark have such a successful team is because their players don't play in Denmark.

This is an area which the Americans will have to address very serious consideration. Just to get a national side together for a series of international matches is not the answer if they want to succeed internationally.

DO you not think that some of FIFA's World Cup decision-makers fear that if they should once hand the World Cup to the United States, they will never get the ball back, so to speak?

No, I don't think so. I don't think there's the slightest danger. The US have never particularly been involved in world sports. Their two main sports have been isolationist sports, baseball and American football, which they cannot play against anyone else. They have a world series in baseball which involves only American teams.



Ted Croker

It can't be a world series except that there is no-one else in the world who could compete because these are not world sports. In games where they do compete internationally, thinking particularly of tennis and golf, American players held the stage for years. But now, in both golf and tennis, Europe has caught up and the centres of those sports have now moved away from America.

So we've seen from those sports that the US will command them only while they are predominant as far as performance is concerned. In football they will never be superior to Europe and South America for many years to come and I doubt whether they will ever be ahead of Europe. Certainly not in the next 50 years. I don't think we need have any fears that the centre of world football will move into America.

It's rather like China. They now have a very good football team. I saw them in the Asian tournament final in Singapore a couple of years ago and if they had believed in themselves they could have won. But they just didn't really believe they were as good as they, in fact, were. With that enormous population they will be a world force in football and they will certainly balance anything the US can produce in the next 50 years.

So I would say that the international flavour of football will be strengthened by the arrival at top level of America and China. And really, since football is the major world team sport, by miles, it is the introduction into it of those two countries must be welcomed by those of us who have the long-term interests of the game at heart.

ASH FOR ENGLAND

Sweden when all their opponents withdrew.

However, FIFA ruled that they had to play-off against Wales who beat them 4-0 on aggregate.

Twenty years later, the Israelis were just two minutes away from qualifying by holding North Korea 1-1. Again, fate intervened and the Koreans scored two late goals.

Israel did make the finals of the 1970 tournament in Mexico where they acquited themselves in admirable fashion. Drawn in the second group, they lost their opening tie 2-0 to Uruguay.

Israel followed-up with a 1-1 draw with Sweden and a goalless game with Italy, the eventual losing finalists. Several of their team impressed with Gora Spiegel and Samuel Rosenthal signing for Lyon and Borussia Moechengladbach after the World Cup.

Ron Greenwood took an interest in Mordecai Spiegler, who had scored a spectacular goal with a 30-yard shot against Sweden, and took him back for trials with West Ham United.

However, problems with a work visa prevented the Upton Park club signing him and they lost him to Paris St Germain.

The Home Countries have all played Israel over the years. Wales were the first back in those 1958 World Cup qualifiers: 2-0 wins in Tel Aviv and Cardiff respectively denied Israel their place in the finals.

JACK CHARLTON, first manager to take the Irish Republic to the final of a major tournament, has no qualms about facing England. He said after the draw: "I know I was part of England's World cup victory in 1966 but there are no divided loyalties. Life moves on. I have a job to do with the Republic of Ireland and that is where my priority lies. I'm quite happy to have drawn England in the first round and, frankly, see no reason why we should not reach the semi-finals."

FIRST ROUND

Note: Times given are local. BST one hour earlier.

June 10 (Dusseldorf — 8.15) — Gp 1 WEST GERMANY v ITALY; June 11 (Hannover — 3.30) — Gp 1 DENMARK v SPAIN; June 12 (Stuttgart — 3.30) Gp 2 ENGLAND v REP. IRELAND; (Cologne — 8.15) — Gp 2 HOLLAND v SOVIET UNION; June 14 (Gelsenkirchen — 5.15) — Gp 1 WEST GERMANY v DENMARK; (Frankfurt — 8.15) — Gp 1 ITALY v SPAIN; June 15 (Düsseldorf — 5.15) — Gp 2 ENGLAND v HOLLAND; (Hannover — 8.15) — Gp 2 REP. IRELAND v SOVIET UNION; June 17 (Munich — 8.15) — Gp 1 WEST GERMANY v SPAIN; (Cologne — 8.15) — Gp 1 ITALY v DENMARK; June 18 (Frankfurt — 3.30) — Gp 2 ENGLAND v SOVIET UNION; (Gelsenkirchen — 3.30) — Gp 2 REP. IRELAND v HOLLAND.

SEMI-FINALS

June 21 (Hamburg — 8.15) Winners 1 v R/U 2; June 22 (Stuttgart — 8.15) Winners 2 v R/U 1.

THE FINAL

June 25 (Munich — 3.30) Note NO match for third place.

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FRANZ WOULD LIKE MULLER

by Pentti Hietanen

FRANZ BECKENBAUER, the West German national manager, must regret the fact that a certain Rene Müller happened to be born east of that well-guarded border which divides Germany.

Kaiser Franz has been deprived of perhaps his only goalkeeper of real world-class ability now that Toni Schumacher, that eternally controversial character, seems to have played his last game for West Germany. With other keepers in the Bundesliga well below his class and with Toni's own career at a sudden stand-still, at least internationally, the best German-speaking custodian today lives in Leipzig, plays for Lokomotiv Leipzig and is named . . . Rene Müller.

How Beckenbauer would want to have him in his squad!

Cream

That the 28-year-old Müller is among the cream of Europe's goalkeepers is in no doubt. And that he is not so well-known in the west is due to no fault of his own, but for the fact that he has not really had a platform on which to shine.

While Rene Müller has been producing outstanding performances for both his club and country, East Germany at full international level has been nothing but a flop. They have not reached the World Cup finals since 1974, have also missed all the European Championship finals and decided to boycott the Olympics in Los Angeles in 1984 after having already won their qualifying group with Müller as a key player.

But although their teams have been disappointing, at least East Germany can boast a string of fine goalkeepers. Men like Karl-Heinz Spickenagel, in the 1950s, the brilliant Jürgen Croy and Bodo Rudwalleit could have starred for almost any team in the world, so Rene Müller is in good company . . . and he wants to be the best of the lot!

Athletic

Like Schumacher, the athletic Müller is a fiercely determined young man, who leaves nothing to chance. As he says: "When I set myself a goal, I try everything in my power not to lose sight of it."

Another German tough-nut custodian? Maybe, but unlike Toni, Müller never seems to create any controversy. No outrageous comments or revelations, no boxer-like gestures on the pitch. In fact, the East German is popular not only among the Leipzig fans but also with the local authorities and the press alike. That, of course, is something that does not apply to his famous Cologne colleague.

Born in Leipzig on February 11, 1959, Rene Müller began playing at the age of seven. At first he kept goal for small regional teams of Leipzig, like Chemie Markkleeberg, before joining Lokomotiv's youth side in 1970. Müller's breakthrough in the East German first division, or the Oberliga, came during the 1980-81 season when Leipzig also collected the country's Cup by defeating Vorwärts Frankfurt 4-1 in the final. He recently played his 200th league match.

En route to stardom at Lokomotiv's Zentralstadion, Müller has had time to become an electrician and is today also a qualified sports instructor.

Many of the world's leading goalkeepers have been a bit flamboyant, larger-than-life figures, who appear to relieve the tension which inevitably surrounds their specific jobs by turning into showmen or experts in practical jokes. Not Rene Müller. By nature and conduct he is as far from the likes of Bruce Grobbelaar or the former West German great Sepp Maier as the Pope is from Benny Hill. A quiet, modest man, who shows no sign of emotions after a match.

Calmness

A match-winning performance is greeted with the same sort of unmoved calmness as is a rare below-par showing. For Müller, a great fan of Jürgen Croy, self-discipline seems to come before everything else and the next match is what matters most.

On his election for East Germany's Player of the Year for 1986, Müller said: "This is a great achievement for me, but I still have a lot to prove. Several outstanding players, who have been given this title before me, men like Croy, Hans-Jürgen Dörner or Joachim Streich, have been much more successful internationally than me."

Not that Müller has done badly in the international matches. After 30-plus caps he is his country's captain. Since the fading from the international scene of that commanding sweeper Dörner, goalkeeper Müller more than anyone has risen to become the "king" of his team's defence with his control of the penalty-area.

And Müller has been in star form for Lokomotiv, too, as the "Railwaymen" reached last season's Cup-Winners' Cup Final before losing 1-0 to Ajax in Athens. He was lavishly praised by Otto Baric, the Yugoslav coach of Rapid Vienna, who called Müller "world-class" after the two sides had drawn 1-1 in the second leg.

And a world-class goalkeeper is just what Beckenbauer, in the West, needs for his European Championship challenge . . .

GOODBYE TO B

Skovdahl is so ha go back to Denm

by Jonathan Shallard

EBBE SKOVDAHL, sacked by Benfica after guiding them to second place in the league and to a Champions' Cup quarter-final clash with Anderlecht, has gone home.

The Danish coach has been reinstalled as boss of progressive Danish champions Brondby, whom he left only last summer for Lisbon . . . where he was always on a hiding to nothing.

Skovdahl has now acknowledged as much in breaking his silence on his departure from the Portuguese giants just five months after succeeding John Mortimore.

The new board under incoming president Joao Santos had thought more of the opinions of the players than they did of Mortimore even though he had just steered the club to the league and cup double.

But the timing of his departure presented problems. Mortimore went within hours of the cup final victory over Sporting. But by then the market in Europe's top coaches had long since been opened and closed.

So Benfica used the cover of the official draw for the first rounds of the European club tournaments, in Geneva, to lure 42-year-old Skovdahl away from Brondby.

So confident was he of fulfilling the two-year contract offered by Benfica that Skovdahl even sold his house back home so he would have no distractions as he knuckled down to the ways of Portuguese football.

Five months later and he had learned about them the hard way, being dismissed in the small hours of the morning after a 2-2 home draw against Farense. But it was to be a story with a happy ending; on January 6 Brondby summoned a press conference to announce that Skovdahl had come home.

"NO ONE at Benfica ever gave me any serious reason for my dismissal. I still can't work it out. There was a club statement about a failure to adapt but you can ignore that.

There's nothing in it. Both my wife and I had come to love Portugal and the way of life.

I can accept that we lost at home at the start of the season against both Vitoria Setubal and against Maritimo. That's nothing to be proud of. I accept it was not a good start to the campaign.

But look what happened after that. We took 11 points from my last six games in charge. What more could we have achieved?

We had five important players injured at various times and nine new players trying to settle in. That meant a big shake-up when you consider that last season the club won the double using basically just 15 players.

I know one or two of the players — the old goalkeeper, Bento, in particular — were not too happy with my training methods.

But that's hardly unusual. Every coach has to put up with that in almost any club from almost any group of players.

Anyway, if my methods were so upsetting, how do you explain our success in the Teresa Herrera tournament in La Coruna before the start of the season.

That's the most prestigious pre-season tournament in Spain. If the training methods weren't suitable, how can you explain the fact that we came through against a team like Everton?

No team in the world could hope to take on Everton if they were short of match fitness. We played well in Huelva when we beat Espanol, and in Zurich against Grasshoppers.

And then came that first-game defeat against Setubal in the Estadio Nacional (because Benfica's own stadium was suspended), I remember very clearly how well we played in the second half.

We hit the post four or five times. No one who saw us in that game could have doubted that we were ready for the season ahead.

Perhaps I made a mistake in concentrating so hard on the pre-season tournaments in Switzerland and in Spain. But I believed that winning the first few matches would only enhance the club's international reputation, would do wonders for the players' confidence and would demonstrate my own ability to get the best out of them.

If we had lost all those international matches people would have been asking questions about the players and about me even before the championship had begun.

Maybe my approach was mistaken. But I believed that my general manager, Gaspar Ramos, and the president, were both as ambitious to win every match as I was.

The president has European Cup-winning ambitions and a club such as Benfica must go out to win every game.

Maybe I worked the players too hard. Maybe they didn't have enough of a break to refresh themselves before the league began.

But I knew we had a strong squad. I knew we would not have to face Porto or Sporting in the early weeks of the season.

I did not know quite how determined Setubal and Maritimo would be. But, after all, I was new in Portugal. I don't believe anyone could have mastered all the details immediately.

So, I was too ambitious and luck did not go my way. But it is not enough merely to blame bad luck. I wanted to change the way Benfica played. I understood that under Mortimore the players believed they had been restricted by tactics which were too cautious. That's what I was told.

So I decided to play more positive, pressing, tactics. Despite what happened I still believe I was right.

I spent a full day with my assistant, Toni, explaining exactly what I wanted. Then we spent a day explaining it to the players. Then we got down to work.

To make 'pressing' work takes time if players are not used to it. A team has to develop great mobility and flexibility. It's hard going before it all starts to work like clockwork.

Some players adapt faster than others. And, of course, there are the usual complications — injuries, team changes and so on.

I don't think I had any serious problems with the squad. Naturally a player who is dropped isn't happy about it. But I didn't have any major upsets.

Not even when I left out Carlos Manuel, who had been the star in midfield for I don't know how long.

I explained to him that I didn't think his attitude or approach was right and he needed to work at it in training. He did and so I put him back in the team.

Carlos Manuel is a very special sort of player. He's not the sort to carry out orders to the letter, like Sheu, for example. He's much more spontaneous and creative, in a way typical of the Portuguese footballer.

I don't want my footballers to be robots but on the other hand you can't allow even the most gifted, like Carlos Manuel, to play without reference to the rest.

Football is a team game, after all. But I wouldn't blame Carlos Manuel for my dismissal. Anyway, I understand he's gone as well, to the Swiss club Sion.

Where the blame lies is hard to saw. But there were certain things I never could understand. When we drew 2-2 at home to Farense in what proved my last game, the members and the fans applauded me when I left the trainer's dug-out at the end of the match.

Their opinion obviously played no part in events that night. I believe they applauded me because they believed in me.

I will say that for some time I had been suspicious of one of the directors, Marcelo de Almeida, because of some comments he made to the press about the way the season was going.

At first I had thought he was a friend. Whenever he saw me he had a big smile and plenty of advice about the country and the people. Now I wonder.

It hardly seems professional if one director was plotting against me. I never quite understood what was going on and no one ever explained it to me.

What I will say is that I never had any problems with Gaspar Ramos, the executive manager. When I started work the only thing he said to me was that we needed another striker.

I said I would have to make up my own mind after a few days to assess the squad. It took a month to see what players I had and then I agreed.

But it wasn't Gaspar Ramos who decided we ought to buy Mats Magnusson, that was my decision. We

ONE feature of Porto's success about whom Benfica need worry no longer is the Algerian World Cup star, Rabah Madjer. He was the decisive figure in both victories in last year's Champions' Cup final (against Bayern Munich) and World Club Cup (against Peñarol). But even before the world showdown with the Uruguayans, Madjer had signed a pre-contract to join Bayern at the season's end. Porto president Pinto da Costa decided there was no point keeping an increasingly disinterested Madjer to the season's end so he has gone on loan to Spanish club Valencia.

SQUAD

Goal: Manuel Galrinho BENTO, SILVINO Almeida, Antonio Dias GRACA, Jose M. Mota DELGADO. **Defenders:** M. EURICO Goncalves, Antonio da Silva VELOSO, E. Camessele DITO, Jose Carlos MOZER (Brz), SAMUEL Antonio Silva, EDMUNDO Jose Pascual, ALVARO Montalvo, Antonio M. FONSECA, CARLOS PEREIRA. **Midfield:** Luis MARIANO Ventura, ELZO Aloisio (Brz), AUGUSTO dos Santos, SHEU Han, Adelino Morais NUNES, G. Bonfim WANDO (Brz), Antonio PACHECO, TUEBA Menayane (Zaire), HAJRY Redoune (Mor), RUI PEDRO, P. J. Vieira PADINHA, DIAMANTINO M. F. Miranda. **Attack:** Jose RUI AGUAS, Carlos CHIQUINHO (Brz), Fernando CHALANA, Jose Antonio Goncalves TO, Nilton Santos DAMAS, Mats MAGNUSSON (Swe).

BENFICA

ppy to ark. . .

considered Paulinho Cascavel, we considered Magnusson and we considered a couple of others.

But by then Cascavel was virtually signed up with Sporting. That's why I went for Magnusson. I knew him and Ramos did not, but he backed my judgment.

I will also say that I don't believe Toni, my assistant and now successor, betrayed me either.

Toni has been quoted as saying that he has to make changes. But, after they sacked me, he could hardly say he wanted to keep everything as it was!

Our ideas were usually similar. We discussed everything and at times we disagreed about team selection. But that's not unusual either and I valued him for his honest opinions. If I disagreed with them, more than if he had just agreed for the sake of it. I admit, too, that I often took Toni's advice.

He is highly experienced. He knows football. There are people in football who think it's a sign of weakness to act on someone else's advice.

But how else do you learn? A beggar has as much right to his opinion as the Queen of England has to hers.

One area of disagreement was over our use of strikers. Toni thought Benfica played better and more effectively with only one man up front full-time. I wanted two men up.

I tried it a few times with one striker but in the end I felt we were much better with both Magnusson and Rui Aguas in attack.

Obviously, when you play with an extra striker you lose one man from midfield so the other midfield players have to concentrate that much harder. But that's not a bad thing.

I wanted a team whose tactics were so flexible that we could switch from 4-4-2 to 2-4-4 if the opposition, say, played only one man up. That, to me, is attacking football.

Perhaps, again, I was mistaken. Perhaps Toni will get better results than me with one striker. Incidentally, it did not give me any pleasure to see that Benfica lost 3-0, 1-0 against Sporting in the Supercup.

No matter what my personal situation, I wish the club the greatest success in the championship and in Europe.

Looking at the squad in general, we certainly needed that extra forward. If I had been there now I think I would have needed two or three other new players to strengthen the team.

Some of the younger players have a lot of potential but tend to disappear from the game for long periods. Mind you, that was a problem too with Diamantino, who is one of the best players in Portugal.

But I think in his case that was more down to the knocks he has collected throughout his career.

It's beyond him nowadays to run for 90 minutes as he used to. The doctors have tried to help him but his knees and ankles are no longer what they were.

I had a problem too, of course, with the goalkeepers. When I arrived Silvino was the No 1 and clearly the man in form. Bento hadn't been back in action very long after his injury at the World Cup.

He's a good keeper. But at his age he was not the man for the future and he didn't exactly put himself about in training either.

So I had my critics. I think the media were generally fair to me. I've seen comments since my departure that I was not 'big' enough for Benfica. But what's the difference between training players for Brondby and training players for Benfica?

The biggest problem for Benfica right now is FC Porto, who are simply the best team in Portugal. That clearly rankled with the directors, because after Porto won the Champions' Cup, they wanted to build their own European title team in six months rather than accepting that the job takes two or three years.

I suppose if it had not been for Porto, I might still be in a job. But Porto's success made the Benfica board impatient.

Too impatient. You can spend as much money as you like on new players. But they will always need time to settle in.

Look at 'my' Benfica. One of the newer players we had was Elzo, the Brazilian World Cup midfielder. Yet, for me, I think he played only three matches because of injuries.

I don't want to appear to be making excuses. But our injuries did not help. As for Magnusson, he can go on and do well in Portugal.

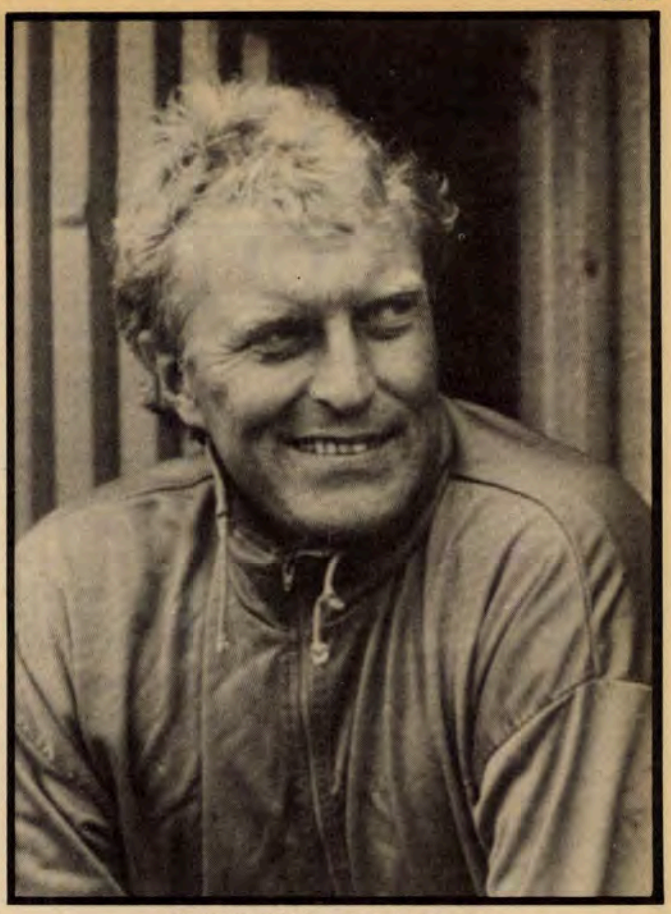
Among the younger players Damas has a lot of potential, Padinha will do well when he's fit again and there's another youngster, named Mariano, who has a real football brain.

Who knows? Perhaps one day I'll go back to work at Benfica again. Mortimore did. I still believe I can do well in Portuguese football. But it's not an adventure I'll be trying again in too much of a hurry.

When the end came I was not too worried about finding a new job. I'm not exactly an unknown. When I took the job at Benfica it was in preference to offers from Greece and Sweden.

But Brondby had always said that if things didn't work out they could always use me. Biger Pettersen did a great job taking them to the championship this past autumn. Now we can build on that.

Who knows? Maybe we might draw Benfica in Europe one day.



EBBE SKODAHL . . . out at Christmas.

THE SUCCESSFUL PATH TO FAILURE

Benfica's results under Ebbe Skovdahl

JULY

W 5-1 away v Grasshoppers
L 1-2 away v Gremio (Brz)
D 2-2 away v Young Boys

AUGUST

D 1-1 home v Vitoria Setubal
W 2-1 away v Vitoria Setubal
D 0-0 away v Everton
D 1-1 away v La Coruna
W 2-1 away v Espanol
L 1-2 away v Huelva
W 3-0 away v Sporting Covilha (lge)
L 0-1 home v Vitoria Setubal (lge)

SEPTEMBER

W 2-1 away v Portimonense (lge)
L 0-1 home v Maritimo (lge)
D 1-1 away v Sporting (lge)
W 4-0 home v Partizani Tirana (Champ. Cup)

OCTOBER

W 1-0 home v Elvas (lge)
L 0-1 away v Chaves (lge)
D 0-0 away v Aarhus (Champ. Cup)
W 2-0 home v Salgueiros (lge)
W 1-0 away v Penafiel (lge)

NOVEMBER

W 2-0 home v Rio Ave (lge)
W 1-0 home v Aarhus (Champ. Cup)
W 1-0 away v Espinho (lge)
W 4-1 away v Pacos de Ferreira (cup)
D 2-2 home v Farense (lge)

	P	W	D	L	F	A
League	12	7	2	3	15	7
Cup	1	1	0	0	4	1
Champ. Cup	3	2	1	0	5	0
Other	9	3	4	2	15	11
Total	25	13	7	5	39	19

1987 REVIEW

EUROPE

THIS is one of those end-of-year reports which is immediately and very obviously flawed.

The top national teams in Europe are clearly those eight who fight it out in the finals of the European championship in West Germany in June. And even World Soccer's traditional percentage method cannot weed out the rogue elephants whose record in 1987 challenges the facts.

These rogue elephants in this case are Rumania and Bulgaria, who end up in fourth and sixth places respectively.

The peculiar nature of the Rumanians' claim is that, although they failed to qualify for the European finals, their good record owes more to their competitive abilities than their friendly match list.

The 'friendly' record includes two draws with Greece and a defeat by Poland.

That was Rumania's only defeat of the year yet the talents of Gheorghe Hagi and Co will be missed from the European finals. Rumania lost out in the qualifying race to Spain — who finish five places below them in the overall 1987 schedule.

Two notable further points relating to the European championship and the 1987 record.

The first is the success of the Republic of Ireland under Jack Charlton in collecting the best percentage record of the year. The Irish won six of their eight matches and lost only once — and that was in Bulgaria last spring.

The second point to note is that Denmark finished way down in 23rd place (just above outgoing European champions France).

There were plenty of hints during the year that the Danes are not the exuberant force they were.

It will be intriguing to see whether they can rise to the occasion in the European finals — or whether the Danes are approaching the sort of bleak spell through which the Dutch, second in our table, have lately, and happily emerged.

EUROPE	P	W	D	L	F	A	%
Republic of Ireland	8	6	1	1	14	3	81.25
Holland	7	4	3	0	13	2	78.57
Italy	10	6	3	1	15	3	75.00
Rumania	9	5	3	1	19	11	72.22
Soviet Union	9	5	3	1	12	5	72.22
Bulgaria	7	5	0	2	12	5	71.42
England	8	4	3	1	20	7	68.75
West Germany	9	4	4	1	10	5	66.66
Spain	7	4	1	2	16	10	64.28
Switzerland	9	3	5	1	12	7	61.11
Sweden	9	4	3	2	9	6	61.11
East Germany	10	5	2	3	16	9	60.00
Poland	11	6	1	4	20	16	59.09
Yugoslavia	7	4	0	3	13	9	57.14
Czechoslovakia	7	3	2	2	9	9	57.14
Portugal	8	3	3	2	6	7	56.25
Hungary	9	4	2	3	12	10	55.55
Wales	6	2	2	2	6	4	50.00
Scotland	8	3	2	3	6	7	50.00
Iceland	6	3	0	3	5	10	50.00
Greece	9	2	4	3	9	15	44.44
Belgium	7	2	2	3	7	6	42.85
Denmark	6	2	1	3	3	4	41.66
France	6	1	2	3	5	7	33.33
Austria	6	1	2	3	5	11	33.33
Northern Ireland	5	1	1	3	3	8	30.00
Norway	9	1	3	5	6	12	27.77
Turkey	6	1	1	4	6	16	25.00
Malta	7	0	3	4	5	15	21.42
Finland	5	1	0	4	6	11	20.00
Cyprus	6	0	1	5	1	10	08.33
Luxembourg	7	0	1	6	2	16	07.14
Albania	4	0	0	4	1	12	—

UNHAPPY YEAR

By BOB PATEMAN

THE year of 1987 was not the happiest for African soccer.

First there was that ridiculous episode about the venue for the 1988 African Nations Cup, an incident which has no doubt left lasting ill feeling between the AFC and the Algerian FA.

The whole unnecessary affair should never have happened, and probably wouldn't have, had the AFC been given complete control of the tournament.

Instead the day to day running of the qualifying rounds was left to the All African Games Committee and they struggled through, often less efficiently than you might have wished.

A second scandal occurred in Ghana when it was revealed that the national team had entered over aged players for a youth competition. Various committees, stopping just short of lynch mobs, were set up to investigate the issue but it says something for the state of soccer in Ghana that the main concern was to find who had leaked the information to the press. Surely a more important question was who in the Ghana FA had tried to deliberately cheat in this competition?

It might also be significant that the country that once dominated African soccer felt it necessary to go to illegal means to try to obtain some kind of success in a relatively minor tournament.

Certainly African soccer is always more exciting when inspired by a good Ghana side but with the best players being lost to professional leagues elsewhere it has left the four times Nations Cup winners in poor shape.

A third scandal raised itself and then subsided but still lurks under the surface. This is the question of Nigeria's hopes of staging one of the Junior World Cup competitions. Magnificent stadiums were built in Nigeria in the 1960's when the petrol dollars flowed but now after years of neglect most are no longer up to UEFA's international standards.

At least 1988 promises to be a better and brighter year. We have the Nations Cup to look forward to and Morocco — with their own World Cup staging dreams — will no doubt be out to prove themselves.

The final looks to have a good line up with six previous winners among the eight finalists. These include Zaire, another of the vast African talent pools, back after a 12-year absence.

In addition to the Nations Cup we will have the Olympics and the first matches for places in the 1990 World Cup to entertain us, so lets hope for a happy, and above all sporting, 1988.

Africa

Rankings for 1987

1 EGYPT: Egypt showed far more confidence and consistency in 1987 and as African Games winners deserve their number one ranking. They in fact performed well in various Asian and Middle East tournaments with wins over sides as diverse as USA and Hungary. These were also good results from the youth team and club sides.

2 NIGERIA: The senior team had two impressive wins in the Nations Cup, eliminating Sierra Leone and Togo while the youth team looked the best side in the Toronto World Cup.

3 KENYA: Kenya are probably not the third best side in Africa. Their 1987 results however would be hard to beat. Home advantage no doubt helped the side reach the African Games Final, where they took Egypt to extra time. To this must be added a successful Nations Cup campaign that climaxed with a victory over Zimbabwe.

4 CAMEROON: Victory in the Udec Cup, a semi-final place in the African Games and a successful Nations Cup qualifying campaign demonstrated that Cameroon are still one of the top sides in Africa. Uganda gave them a scare, beating them 3-1 in the away leg, but the West Africans are well worth their high ranking.

5 IVORY COAST: Good results from the youth teams combined with a successful Nations Cup justify the ranking. Their most noticeable victories were scored over Congo, Malawi and Paris St Germain.

6 ZAIRE: Zaire are back in the big time. Their best result was the Nations Cup victory over highly ranked Senegal.

7 ALGERIA: Despite all the fuss Algeria still reached the finals of the Nations Cup. They twice recorded competitive victories over Tunisia and there was a friendly victory over Videoton.

8 SENEGAL: It was a strange season for Senegal. They took third place in the Amilcar Cup but then thrashed the winners, Guinea in the Nations Cup. The next round saw them hold Zaire over two games only to lose on the penalty play-off. Friendly results included a draw with the much improved Japanese team.

9 GHANA: They might have missed out on the Nations Cup but an early season win in the West African Championship and some good results from Asante still sees them edging into the top ten.

10 SIERRA LEONE and UGANDA: A tie for the last place. Uganda can claim the success of Villa in the East African Cup and a home victory over Cameroon, Sierra Leone have their Nations Cup success over Ghana and a good performance in the next round against Nigeria.

South America

URUGUAY THE BEST RECORD...

IT was easy for Uruguay to finish with the best record in international matches on the South American continent during 1987 and as they also won the South American Championship for the Copa America last year their position as No. 1 is, no doubt, valid.

But Uruguay, as defending champions, had a bye into the semi-finals where they beat a disappointing Argentina 1-0 and then repeated the same result in the final against Chile to win the title . . . bringing complaints about the format for the tournament which will be changed again for the next edition.

Argentina were the big disappointment because, as current world champions, they were fully expected to annex the South American title on their own ground, but seeing all the South American teams together for once at three venues in Argentina, the hosts definitely did not play the best soccer, Maradona and all, nor can this honour really go to Uruguay of whom hardly enough was seen.

The brightest soccer, most experts agree, was played by Colombia who beat Argentina for third place and several of their players were in the running for the title of player of the tournament which finally went to their midfielder, Carlos Valderrama. He was also later voted South American Footballer of the Year.

Another breath of fresh air was provided by unsung Chile, the beaten finalists, who then lost a number of their players to foreign clubs.

Warm-ups

During 1987, South American teams played a total of 33 matches of which 13 were in the South American Championship, 11 were "warm-ups" for this tournament and eight others against teams from outside the continent.

But only Brazil and Argentina ventured overseas, the latter on a five-match tour and Argentina for a match against Italy, under FIFA organisation, which showed the latter a bit more experienced and winning 3-1.

For this clash between the last two world champions, Argentina were not able to field their full World Cup winning side as was also not possible, for one reason or another, in their other games.

Uruguay's only two matches outside the South American Championship were home games against weak Ecuador and Bolivia and both were only won by a one-goal margin.

Brazil, who played most full internationals during the year (11) and had the second best record, hardly have a happy year to look back on however.

Their tour brought them a good victory (2-0) in Scotland, but other wins came against unfancied Finland and Israel. They managed to draw 1-1 in England, but lost 1-0 to the Irish Republic and then came that 4-0 defeat against Chile — the upset of the season — which knocked them out of the South American Championship in the preliminary stage.

Only West Germany visited the continent for two games and they did not have their strongest squad available.

A 1-1 draw in Brazil and a 1-0 defeat in Argentina left everybody happy, except perhaps Brazil who were robbed of victory in the final minute.

Overall, there was no one outstanding team in South America last year and none of high quality emerged either.

There was also no outstanding goal scorer on the international scene either with Colombia's Iguaran and Brazil's Romario and Valdo netting four each — the first mentioned all in the South American Championship. The famed Maradona was one of a bunch who had to be content with three.

SOUTH AMERICA	P	W	D	L	F	A	%
Uruguay	4	4	0	0	6	2	100
Brazil	11	7	2	2	23	11	73
Chile	7	5	0	2	13	6	71
Colombia	6	4	0	2	9	6	67
Paraguay	4	2	1	1	3	3	62
Peru	5	1	2	2	5	6	40
Argentina	7	2	1	4	7	8	36
Ecuador	7	1	1	5	4	12	21
Bolivia	4	0	1	3	1	6	12
Venezuela	2	0	0	2	1	8	0

WORLD SOCCER
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AFFELOU

GLENN BACK AT SPURS...

GLENN HODDLE is on his way back to White Hart Lane.

Not, however, to play for Tottenham again — perhaps to the great regret of Spurs boss Terry Venables, judging by a newspaper interview he gave soon after signing on the dotted line for chairman Irving Scholar.

Instead Hoddle and fellow England exile Mark Hateley should be lining up against Tottenham on February 15 during Monaco's trip to the UK as they bid to shake off the rust of the French winter break.

The French league leaders will also be visiting Glasgow Rangers and Newcastle United trying to demonstrate just why they were leading champions Bordeaux as well as Racing Paris and Marseille such a lively dance when the first division was brought to a halt just before Christmas.

Hoddle and Hateley have earned a legion of new admirers during their first six months in Prince Rainier's super-rich principality (though whether that is enough to keep them in full-time England contention is another matter).

But there is much more to the Association Sportive de Monaco than two Englishmen, no matter how effective.

The financial support of Prince Rainier and his family — Prince Albert is a passionate fan — makes Monaco one of the most secure clubs in Europe despite having drawn average gates of only 4,428 last season to a multi-million-franc stadium in the New Louis II sports complex.

In the past 25 years Monaco have been both French champions and cup-winners on four occasions.

The last success was to win the cup in 1985, a triumph which vindicated the club's careful work in the domestic and international transfer markets.

Some clubs spend heavily on players and managers with scant regard for quality. Not Monaco. Not in all the 64 years of the club's existence, nor in the 35 years since they first entered the French top flight, nor in the 25 years since the first championship in 1963.

One of their most influential characters then was a winger-turned-wing half named Michel Hidalgo. In 1956 he had been a member of the Reims team narrowly beaten by Real Madrid in the inaugural European Cup Final.

In 1984, now a manager, he would steer a skill-packed French national team to thrilling triumph in the European championship.

Hidalgo was a typical example of the responsible characters to whom Monaco have looked for success. But Monaco have never looked only within France. Two Argentine players were hugely successful.

One, Omar Pastoriza, has since become one of South America's most successful coaches. Another, the centre-forward Delio Onnis, set French league goal-scoring records.

But not everyone settles, Soren Lerby, the all-action Dane, could not adapt to the more technical French style and left last summer for Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven.

But his departure hardly left much of a gap since coach Arsene Wenger can call on no fewer than ten full internationals.

GOALKEEPERS	BORN	PREVIOUS CLUBS	SIGNED	INTL. CAPS
Jean-Luc ETTORI	29-7-55	INF Vichy	1975	9 – FRANCE
Angelo HUGUES	3-9-66	Dunkerque	1986	
Patrick OTTMANN	21-4-56	Haguenau, Strasbourg	1987	
DEFENDERS				
Manuel AMOROS	1-2-62	—	1977	49 – FRANCE
Patrick BATTISTON	12-3-57	Metz, St-Etienne, Bordeaux	1987	52 – FRANCE
Claude PUEL	2-9-61	—	1976	
Maurice REVELLI	4-9-64	—	1981	
Stephan SALOMON	28-11-64	INF Vichy	1985	
Luc SONOR	15-9-62	Metz	1986	1 – FRANCE
Rémy VOGEL	26-11-60	Strasbourg	1987	1 – FRANCE
MIDFIELD				
Marcel DIB	10-8-60	Toulon	1985	
Jean-Marc FERRATGE	10-1-59	Bordeaux, Nimes, Toulouse	1986	1 – FRANCE
Glenn HODDLE	7-10-57	Tottenham	1987	47 – ENGLAND
Fabrice MEGE	6-6-65	Nice	1987	
Jean-Philippe ROHR	23-12-61	Metz, Nice	1986	
ATTACK				
Bruno BELLONE	14-3-62	—	1977	31 – FRANCE
Youssouf FOFONA	26-7-66	Cannes	1985	10 – IV. COAST
Mark HATELEY	7-11-61	Portsmouth, Milan	1987	24 – ENGLAND
Omar DA FONSECA	20-10-59	Tours	1986	ARGENTINE YTH.

By KEIR RADNEDGE

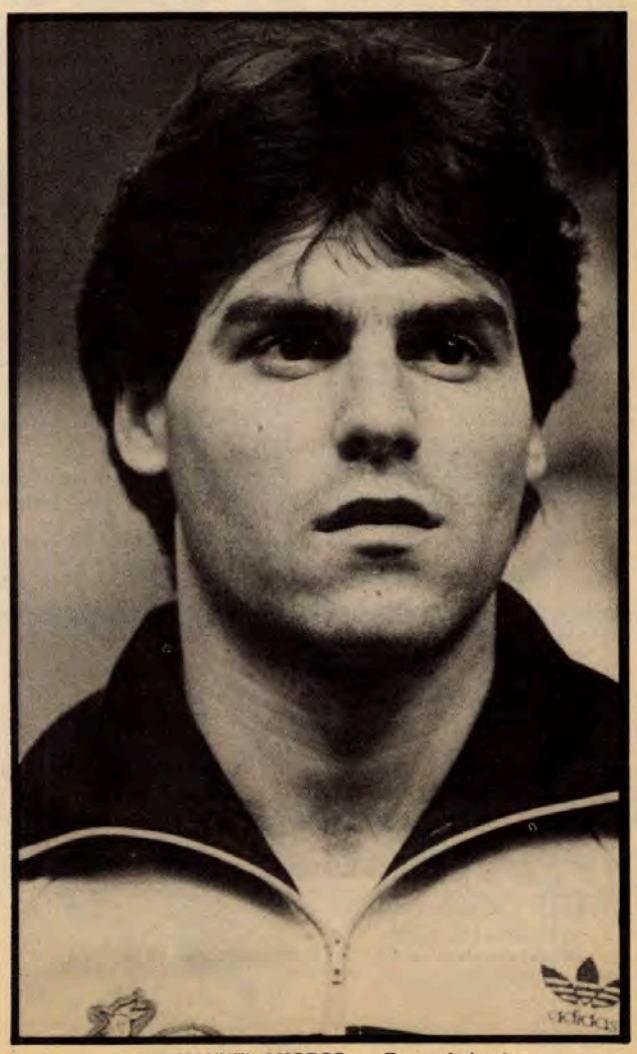
Horrific

Among them is Jean-Luc Ettori, who kept goal for the French team which finished fourth in the 1982 World Cup. Central defender Patrick Battiston was there too — who can forget his horrific clash with the West German goalkeeper Toni Schumacher? — as well as in Mexico two years ago.

Another defender, Manuel Amoros, is one of Europe's top fullbacks and midfielder Jean-Marc Ferratge would surely have won many more international caps but for the dominance of Platini, Tigana and Giresse.

Youssouf Fofana, an Ivory Coast international, is one of the most exciting wingers in the French first division. But it is the combination of Hateley and Hoddle which has turned Monaco into championship favourites.

Ironic that, for all their controversial abilities, neither man knew such success during their careers in England.



MANUEL AMOROS . . . Europe's best.

WORLD SOCCER DIARY

KEIR RADNEDGE'S EXCLUSI

DUTCH MAG

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

BRAZIL: In the first leg of the national championship final, Internacional are held 1-1 at home in Porto Alegre by Flamengo. Bebeto opens the score for Flamengo then hits the bar with a spectacular scissors kick. Amarildo equalises for Internacional.

HOLLAND: Seven more goals for leaders PSV Eindhoven as they thrash struggling DS Dordrecht 7-0. PSV's Danish midfielder Soren Lerby says: "This is the best team I have ever played for."

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

BRAZIL: Pele explains, in an interview with the Folha of Sao Paulo newspaper, that he has been misquoted and misunderstood in appearing to support United States against Brazil in the bid to host the 1994 World Cup finals. Pele says that Brazil would be his clear perference were it not for the country's precarious economic situation which could hamper necessary work.

HOLLAND: National manager Rinus Michels names 12 players for the European championship decider against Cyprus behind closed doors in Amsterdam. Spelbos is out injured, so his place will go to either club-mate Aron Winter or Den Haag's Joop Lankhaar.

WEST GERMANY: Knee injury victims Pierre Littbarski and Dieter Eckstein pull out of West Germany's trip to South America. Eckstein collected his injury in a tackle the previous weekend with Stuttgart's Jürgen Klinsmann, who is now the only striker left in the squad . . . Rolf Schafstall, axed as coach by relegation-threatened Schalke, is appointed in charge of Bayer Uerdingen in succession to Horst Köppel.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

FRANCE: Reports in Paris, but denied in Italy, say that Uruguayan star Enzo Francescoli has agreed to sign for Juventus from Paris Saint-Germain . . . Obituary: Julien Da Rui, one of the finest of French goalkeepers, dies aged 71. He played 25 times for France between 1939 and 1951. He was the Europe XI goalkeeper in the 1947 match at Hampden against Great Britain which celebrated the home countries' return to FIFA membership.

PORTUGAL: Johan Cruyff, coach to Ajax, turns up in Oporto hoping to negotiate the loan of Algerian star Rabah Madjer for the rest of the season.

MALAYSIA: Malaysia beat Vejle 3-1 on the opening day of the Merdeka tournament in Kuala Lumpur.

PERU: Alianza of Lima win 1-0 away to Deportes Pucallpa to stay one point ahead of Union Huaral.

WEST GERMANY: Franz Beckenbauer calls Werder Bremen striker Frank Ordenewitz into his squad for the South America tour.

YUGOSLAVIA: The FA add to Hajduk's original punishment for 'that' smoke bomb by suspending Hajduk from home matches until further notice.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

MATCH ACTION . . . for the UEFA Cup third round second legs. Overall victories for Bayer Leverkusen (v Feyenoord), Brugge (v Dortmund in the most exciting tie of the night), Espanol (v Internazionale), Barcelona (v Flamurtari), Verona (v Sportul), Werder Bremen (v Tbilisi) and Vitkovice (v Guimaraes).

BULGARIA: Bulgaria beat Turkey 3-0 in an Olympic qualifier in Ankara.

BRAZIL: Brazil and West Germany draw 1-1 in a poor game in Brasilia.

HOLLAND: Holland beat Cyprus 4-0 in a replay behind closed doors in Amsterdam to assure their place in the European championship finals. John Bosman, who scored five times in the 'first' match, heads a hat-trick.

JAPAN: Penarol, champions of South America, are prevented from proper training for the weekend's World Club Cup final because of snow on the pitch in the National Olympic Stadium in Tokyo.

PERU: The aircraft bringing Alianza back from Pucallpa crashes into the Pacific and breaks up into two pieces on the beach of a resort called Ventanilla, about ten miles from Lima. There is only one survivor from the 43 people on board, a member of the crew. The 18-strong first team squad of Alianza is wiped out along with eight officials, including former Peru World Cup boss Marcos Calderon, and several youth players.

SPAIN: Cup-holders Real Sociedad advance to the third round thanks to a 2-0 (2-1 aggregate) victory over Cartagena.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA ban French players Eric Stefanini (for one year) and Gilles Bourges (for six months) for attacking a linesman at the Mediterranean Games final which France lost to Syria on a controversial penalty. The Syrian federation is fined £2,000 for security inadequacies.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

VENEZUELA: El Mundo of Caracus, in its annual poll, selects Carlos Valderrama of Colombia as South American Footballer of the Year. Roberto Cabanas is runner-up with Antonio Alzamendi third.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

SWITZERLAND: UEFA formally invite the English FA to make representations, on January 20, as to why English clubs should be allowed back into Europe next season.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

COLOMBIA: Examining judge Elizabeth Amaya refuses to allow Francois Yvinec, president of French club Brest, to fly home to France pending a decision in a case of alleged fraud over the contract selling Paraguayan striker Roberto Cabanas to Brest from America of Cali. FIFA have intervened to order the clubs to agree a compromise 'halfway' fee of £750,000 but America are afraid Brest do not possess the money.

ITALY: Ian Rush is fined £2,500 by Juventus for an article which appeared under his name in *The Sun* threatening to walk out on Italian football if he was dropped.

SWITZERLAND: The draw for the World Cup qualifying rounds is made in an Italian television spectacular in Zurich.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

BRAZIL: Flamengo win the national championship, defeating Internacional of Porto Alegre by 1-0 and 2-1 on aggregate. A 90,000 crowd in Rio's Maracana stadium see Andrade create the 18th-minute opening for the decisive goal, by Bebeto. This is Flamengo's fourth national title in the 1980s. The others came in 1980, 1982 and 1983. Whether Flamengo will enter this year's South American Cup is uncertain because of more rules confusion with the CBF.

EAST GERMANY: The inevitable Dynamo Berlin lead at the halfway stage in the season, despite having dropped a point in a 1-1 draw at Vorwärts. But Dynamo lead only on goal difference from Lokomotiv Leipzig.

ITALY: Roma's Italy goalkeeper Franco Tancredi needs heart massage after being rushed to hospital from San Siro. Tancredi is knocked unconscious by two thunder flashes thrown from the crowd in the 1-0 defeat by Milan. It is the third such incident this season . . . elsewhere Napoli beat Juventus 2-1 thanks to an 88th-minute penalty from Diego Maradona.

PORTUGAL: Newly-signed Swedish capture Mats Magnusson scores a hat-trick in Benfica's 4-2 win away to Academica Coimbra. Benfica are now only three points behind leaders Porto, but Porto have a game in hand.

SPAIN: Top two, Real and Atletico Madrid, both win, while Real Sociedad keep up the pressure — moving into third place thanks to a 4-1 win over Barcelona, whose only goal is scored four minutes from time by Roberto.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

BRAZIL: Veteran Flamengo star Zico undergoes a third operation on his left knee, the day after his club's national championship triumph. Surgeon Neylor Lasmar says: "This time it is nothing serious, just minor repairs. When the other players return from their holiday Zico will be fit to join them." . . . It is announced simultaneously in Brazil and New Zealand that a Brazilian national team will visit New Zealand for two matches in Wellington and Auckland in July.

ETHIOPIA: Zanzibar steps in at the last moment to replace late quitters Sudan in the East and Cen-

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GNIFICENT SEVEN

tral African Challenge Cup — and draw their opening match 0-0 against Kenya.

ITALY: Luigi Sacchi, the 23-year-old unemployed builder who threw the thunder flashes which felled Franco Tancredi, rings the Roma goalkeeper to apologise. Sacchi says: "I didn't mean to hurt anyone. I didn't intend the fireworks to fall near anyone." Tancredi says he considered retirement . . . Italian federation officials arrange a meeting with government ministers to discuss crowd control problems.

JAPAN: FC Porto win the World Club Cup thanks to a 2-1 extra time win over Penarol in Los Angeles.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

MATCH ACTION . . . in the European under-21 event: Turkey 3, Yugoslavia 0 — so England qualify for the quarter-finals.

ITALY: Interior Minister Amintore Fanfani promises police will step up efforts to control and prevent football hooliganism.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA denies over-enthusiastic British newspapers headlines that the invitation to the FA to put the readmittance case on behalf of English clubs, means the ban will be raised in time for next season.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

ARGENTINA: Argentina beat West Germany 1-0 in a Buenos Aires friendly. World Cup-winner Jorge Burruchaga scores the only goal on a Maradona pass in the 55th minute.

GREECE: A deliberately second-class Greek team lose 3-0 to a deliberately weakened Dutch line-up in the European championship. Holland had already qualified for the finals.

GUYANA: Prime Minister Hamilton Green says that the 14-national squad players who 'vanished' in Los Angeles a month earlier had been lured away by the prospects of easy money. Nine of the 26-man squad defected before a 9-0 defeat by Mexico in Los Angeles in the Olympic qualifiers; another five disappeared the following day.

MALAYSIA: In the Merdeka Cup's first semi-final in Kuala Lumpur, the Czechoslovak Olympic team beat Velvez Mostar of Yugoslavia 3-0.

MEXICO: Guadalajara of Mexico and South American champions Penarol play out a goalless friendly in Los Angeles.

SPAIN: In the third round of the cup top first leg match sees Espanol lose 3-1 at home to Barcelona. Real Madrid are held 1-1 at Cadiz; Atletico Madrid are held 0-0 at home by Las Palmas; and cup holders Real Sociedad draw 0-0 at Gijon.

SWITZERLAND: The draw is made for the quarter-finals of the three UEFA club competitions plus the quarter-finals of the European under-21 tournament. Pick of the bunch is the Champions' Cup repeat between Real Madrid and Bayern Munich. Britain's last survivors, Rangers, must face Steaua Bucharest . . . Guyana are fined £4,500 for refusing to face Mexico in an Olympic qualifier.

TURKEY: Yugoslavia end their European title campaign with a 3-2 win over Turkey.

URUGUAY: Defensor clinch only their second Uruguayan league title as they beat second-placed Nacional 1-0.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

EAST GERMANY: Obituary: Karl Zimmermann, president of the East German federation, dies at 56 after a long illness.

GHANA: Champions Asnate Kotoko are banned from international competition for one year and suspended from home matches for three years because of rioting which left three fans dead after their defeat by Al Ahly of Egypt in the African Champions' Cup semi-final. Algerian match officials and four Egyptian players were among those injured.

MALAYSIA: In the second semi-final of the Merdeka Cup, South Korea beat hosts Malaysia 1-0 with an 82nd-minute goal by Choi Sang Kuk.

PERU: A benefit game for dependents of the Alianza plane crash is played in Lima. An Alianza side made up of guest players lose 2-1 to Independiente of Argentina . . . the one survivor of the air crash, the pilot, Lt Edilberto Villar, is named as subject to a negligence investigation by a judge.

PORTUGAL: Portugal's World Cup midfielder, Carlos Manuel, completes his transfer from Benfica to Sion of Switzerland.

SPAIN: Barcelona outcast Steve Archibald agrees to go on loan to English second division club, Blackburn.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA cut Liam Brady's European championship ban from four matches to two, thus freeing him to play at least one game in the finals. UEFA also cut from £50,000 to £25,000 a fine on the Spanish federation for inadequate security when a linesman was struck by a firework at the European championship game against Austria.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

ARGENTINA: Boca Juniors axe Juan Carlos Lorenzo in the wake of their last league defeat, 2-0 against Rosario Central.

COLOMBIA: Francois Yvinec, president of Brest, escapes from Colombia along with his newly-signed Paraguayan World Cup striker, Roberto Cabanas. Yvinec is spirited away with Cabanas, the player's fiancee and a translator, by private plane to Caracas, Venezuela, from where they take a scheduled flight for France via London. Juan Jose Bellini, president of Cabanas's former club America Cali, says Yvinic's disappearance proves he must have been guilty of forging Bellini's signature on the original transfer document, after all.

FRANCE: Monaco keep up their table-topping form with a 2-1 win over struggling Paris Saint-Germain — who sacked coach Eric Mombaerts after the match. Mombaerts had been appointed only eight weeks earlier when Gerard Houllier 'moved upstairs' to general manager.

ITALY: Juventus' appeal against the result reversal of their match with Cesena (when a visiting player was struck by a firework) is rejected.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA reject Hajduk Split's appeal against a two-year European ban imposed because of the tear gas incident at their Cup-winners' Cup tie against Marseille.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

BELGIUM: Racing Jet, despite the ambition displayed by having just signed Rumanian veteran Ladislau Boloni and Czech striker Petr Janecka, crash 7-2 to league leaders Antwerp.

FRANCE: Bordeaux beat Montpellier 1-0 with a goal from Jose Toure to end the first half of the season three points behind leaders Monaco. Level with Bordeaux on goal difference are Racing Club of Paris.

MALAYSIA: Czechoslovakia's Olympic team win the Merdeka Cup in Kuala Lumpur when they beat South Korea 3-2 in the final.

WEST GERMANY: Obituary: Georg 'Schorsch' Knöpfle, former coach to Hamburg, Werder Bremen, Köln and Alemannia Aachen, dies aged 83. He played in the 1920s and 1930s for Fürth and FSV Frankfurt and appeared 23 times for Germany. His major managerial achievement was in steering Köln to the first Bundesliga championship in 1964.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

ARGENTINA: Newell's Old Boys take over at the top on goal difference from Racing thanks to a 2-1 win away to River Plate — coached by former Newell's coach, Carlos Timoteo Griguol.

COLOMBIA: Millionarios of Bogota win the championship thanks to a 1-0 win over closest rivals Atletico Junior.

GREECE: Four Communist MPs give notice that they will raise in parliament 'concern' at the transfer spending spree launched by champions Olympiakos since their takeover by controversial businessman George Koskotas. It is revealed that in the recent two-weeks transfer 'extension', Olympiakos spent £4 million, including £650,000 on the River Plate star Juan Gilberto Funes. Dutchman Thijs Libregts has also been engaged as coach to succeed Alketas Panagulias, who has returned to the US. Yet Olympiakos are still without a win in 11 matches as they draw 2-2 away to Panserraikos.

HOLLAND: PSV Eindhoven win their 17th consecutive game with an easy 2-0 away victory over Den Bosch. Ronald Koeman and Gerald Vanenburg get the goals. Ajax remain second after beating Alkmaar 3-0 on goals by Meijer (2) and Bosman.

ITALY: Lots of goals (comparatively). Napoli beat Verona 4-1 in championship style, while Roma thrash Pescara 5-1 to celebrate Franco Tancredi's return to action in goal after his firework 'attack' in Milan. Tancredi says: "I felt as nervous as if I were making my debut all over again." Juventus are held 1-1 at home by Sampdoria while Milan win the San Siro derby thanks to a 3rd-minute own goal by Internazionale's Ricardo Ferri.

MALTA: The last match in the European championship qualifying tournament sees Malta lose 1-0 at home to Portugal thanks to a goal from Frederico after 74 minutes and some inspired goalkeeping by Portugal's Jesus.

PORTUGAL: Sporting complete their success over Benfica in the Supercup when they win the second leg 1-0 for a 4-0 aggregate.

SPAIN: Shocks all round. Real Madrid lose 2-1 away to John Mortimore's Betis, Atletico Madrid lose 1-0 at home to Sevilla and Barcelona slump 4-2 at home to Valladolid despite goals from Schuster (penalty) and Lineker. Only team to gain are Real Sociedad, who move up into second place (three points behind Real Madrid) courtesy of a 2-1 win at Murcia.

URUGUAY: Champions-elect Defensor lose 3-1 to Bella Vista but, with one round of the championship left cannot be caught at the top. Nacional beat Rampla Juniors 4-1 to move into second place, but are three points adrift.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21

ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona arrives back in Buenos Aires for the Christmas holiday sporting a black eye, which he claims to be the legacy of Napoli's 4-1 league win in

Continued overleaf

WORLD SOCCER DIARY

KEIR RADNEDGE'S EXCLUSI

GULLIT'S E

Continued from previous page

Italy over Verona the previous day.

AUSTRIA: Slavko Sajber, president of the Yugoslav federation, is bailed by a Vienna court on charges of trying to smuggle gold coins.

GREECE: Hooligan trouble on top of all the rest for Olympiakos. Seven fans are charged by police after throwing missiles at Panserraikos supporters and smashing shop windows. The fans had all travelled to Serred on the train chartered at a cost of £30,000 by new Olympiakos president, George Koskotas.

ITALY: Walter Zenga, Italy's national team goalkeeper, agrees to sign a new three-year contract with Internazionale. Zenga had been in dispute with the club over his future since last spring and had been expected to join Napoli at the end of the current season.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22

AUSTRIA: Second division Vorwärts Steyr draw 2-2 with visiting Kiev Dynamo in a four-team tournament in Linz. The match comes amid rumours concerning the transfer of Soviet veteran Oleg Blokhin to the Austrian club.

BELGIUM: Marc Vanderlinden, 23-year-old Antwerp forward, is released after a day in police custody on charges of handling stolen fur coats. Also implicated, and still held by police, is Antwerp's Yugoslav reserve goalkeeper, Ratko Svilar. Vanderlinden was in court at the end of Novmber and found guilty of assaulting a policeman who attended a domestic disturbance.

PORTUGAL: Porto's controversial Algerian star, Rabah Madjer, agrees to go on loan to Spain's Valencia until his transfer to Bayern Munich can be completed at the season's end.

RUMANIA: Steaua's Gheorghe Hagi is voted Footballer of the Year. Belodedici is second, Camataru third.

SAN MARINO: UEFA's newest members announce their intention of entering the full 1992 European championships and the 1990 European under-21 event.

SWITZERLAND: Defender Claude Ryf, out with a broken leg since the end of August, signs a new four-year contract with champions Xamax.

WEST GERMANY: Werder Bremen's veteran striker, Manfred Burgsmüller, extends his contract to 1989 — on the eve of his 38th birthday.

YUGOSLAVIA: Slavko Sajber resigns as federation president because of the gold coin smuggling case laid against him in Austria. Sajber had been released on bail the previous day in Vienna.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23

AUSTRIA: Former international midfielder Josef Hickersberger, 39, is named new national manager in succession to Branko Elsner. Hickersberger, who played in the 1978 World Cup finals, was a player with FK Austria, Rapid Vienna, Kickers Offenbach and Fortuna Düsseldorf.

BULGARIA: Vitosha stopper Nikolai Iliev is voted Footballer of the Year.

HOLLAND: Uncertainty over the future of Ajax supremo Johan Cruyff. He wants a two-year contract, the club are offering only one year. Cruyff warns that if the matter is not resolved by the end of January he will consider offers from abroad. Already in contact are Paris Saint-Germain.

ITALY: The federation's disciplinary commission predictably awards Roma a 2-0 victory in the match at Milan during which goalkeeper Franco Tancredi was felled by a firework. Milan had won the game 1-0.

SPAIN: Atletico Madrid coach Cesar Menotti denies reports that he is seriously considering approaches to return to Boca Juniors.

SWEDEN: Erik Thorstvedt, Norwegian goalkeeper of Borussia Mönchengladbach, signs for Swedish champions IFK Gothenburg.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

BRAZIL: World Cup forward Walter Casagrande, back home for the holidays from his Italian club Ascoli, is arrested by police along with fellow international Sidney and the musician, Ocimar de Iloveira, after marijuana is found in the car in which they are travelling. All three are released after Ocimar admits sole responsibility (Casagrande was arrested for possession of cocaine in Sao Paulo in 1982).

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

HONDURAS: Deportivo Olimpia win the championship for the ninth time thanks to a 1-0 win over Maraton in San Pedro Sula. The decisive goal is scored on the hour by Juan Carlos Espinoza.

LIBERIA: The host nation lose 2-0 in Monrovia to Ivory Coast.

SPAIN: Best of both worlds? Coruna footballer Jon Aspiazu marries local journalist Susana Perez.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26

BELGIUM: Walter Meeuws, former World Cup defender and now coach to second division Lierse, is to succeed Guy Thys as national boss in the summer. Meeuws will work as No 2 to Thys until the veteran manager's retirement to the post of technical director . . . Ratko Svilar tells Belgian police that he was involved in the fur coat case by fellow Yugoslav international, Vladimir Petrovic, now playing in France for Brest.

EGYPT: New football tragedy; 20 people, including players of fans of an Egyptian second division team, are killed when their coach crashes off the road at Kim Hamada, 100 miles north-west of Cairo.

PERU: Alianza appoint assistant coach Rafael "Cholo" Castillo as new team boss to rebuild in the wake of the air disaster. Castillo is preferred to three big-name candidates, Juan Eduardo Hohberg, Juan Jose Tan and Moises Barack.

POLAND: Andrzej Iwan, who has lately left Gornik for West Germany's Bochum, is voted Footballer of the Year.

SPAIN: Real Madrid midfielder Michel is voted Footballer of the Year by the Madrid sports daily, Marca . . . daily speculation continues regarding the future of Bernd Schuster when he leaves Barcelona at the season's end. Real Madrid, Atletico Madrid and Juventus are all watching developments — and assessing the risk.

URUGUAY: Hector del Campo is voted in as new president of the federation with effect from February 1, in the hope of resolving a six-month-long administrative crisis . . . Nacional fine their players heavily for going on strike (in protest at not having been paid) before a decisive 1-0 defeat by champions-elect Defensor. Seven players are axed from the squad for the play-off series to decide Uruguay's Libertadores Cup entries. They are: keeper Freddy Clavijo, defenders Rafael Villazan, Enrique Perdigon and Juan Ferrari; midfielders Julio Ribas and Miguel Caillava and forward Tomas Silva.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

BRAZIL: The crisis-hit CBF announces plans for a tournament in 1989 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Brazilian football administration. Tentative plans are for matches in June involving Brazil, Spain, Portugal and Italy.

ITALY: Juventus players report back for training after a short Christmas holiday but Ian Rush is absent — late returning from Britain for the third time this season.

GREECE: Crisis-hit champions Olympiakos score their first league victory of the season, defeating Panahaiki 2-0 after grabbing the opening goal in 25 seconds.

PORTUGAL: Porto stay four points clear at the top thanks to a 2-0 victory over Penafiel. Benfica are held goalless at home by Braga.

SOVIET UNION: The federation formally confirm the long-standing unofficial reports and rumours that Dnepr star Gennadi Litovchenko and Oleg Protassov are to join Kiev Dynamo — even though Dnepr have just beaten Kiev in the race to become the first Soviet club to turn professional.

TURKEY: Galatasaray beat Adanaspor 3-0 to edge one-point clear of Besiktas at the top.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28

CHILE: Pele to coach Chile's national team? That's the headline in a Santiago newspaper. But then, December 28 is South America's equivalent of Europe's April Fools Day.

ITALY: Juventus fine Ian Rush £2,500 for his late return from the Christmas holidays.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29

FRANCE: The Paris magazine, France's Football, votes Ruud Gullit as European Footballer of the Year. Gullit, Milan's Dutch star who has been named World Player of the Year by *World Soccer* readers, dedicates his prize to the jailed South African black leader, Nelson Mandela. Full voting: Gullit 106 votes; Paolo Futre (Atletico Madrid and Portugal) 91; Emilio Butragueno (Real Madrid and Spain) 61; Michel (Real Madrid, Spain) 29; Lineker (Barcelona, England) 13; Barnes (Liverpool, England) and Van Basten (Milan, Holland) both 10; Vialli (Sampdoria, Italy) 9; Robson (Manchester United, England) 7; K. Allofs (Marseille, West Germany), Hysen (Fiorentina, Sweden) both 6; Amoros (Monaco, France) and Matthäus (Bayern Munich, West Germany) both 5; Hateley (Monaco, England), Polster (Torino, Austria) and Rush (Juventus, Wales) each 4; Littbarski (Köln, West Germany), McGrath (Manchester United, Republic of Ireland), Pfaff (Bayern, Belgium) and Zavarov (Kiev, Soviet Union) each 3; Beardsley (Liverpool, England), Camataru (Dinamo Bucharest, Rumania), Dassayev (Spartak, Soviet Union), Elkjaer (Verona, Denmark), Hagi (Steaua, Rumania), Hermann (Xamax, Switzerland), McCoist (Rangers, Scotland), Mlynarczyk (Porto, Poland), Shilton (Derby, England) 2 each; Altobelli (Inter, Italy), Hoddle (Monaco, England) Kushta (Flamurtari, Albania), Saravakos (Panathinakos, Greece) and Völler (Roma, West Germany) each 1. Past winners: 1956 Matthews. 1957 Di Stefano. 1958 Kopa. 1959 Di Stefano. 1960 Suarez. 1961 Sivori. 1962 Masopust. 1963 Yashin. 1964 Law. 1965 Eusebio. 1966 Bobby Charlton. 1967 Albert. 1968 Best. 1969 Rivera. 1970 Müller. 1971 Cruyff. 1972 Beckenbauer. 1973 Cruyff. 1974 Cruyff. 1975 Blokhin. 1976 Beckenbauer. 1977 Simonsen. 1978 Keegan. 1979 Keegan. 1980 Rummenigge. 1981 Rummenigge. 1982 Rossi. 1983 Platini. 1984 Platini. 1985 Platini. 1986 Belanov.

VE GLOBAL NEWS SERVICE

UROPEAN POLL

PERU: Chilean star Francisco Huerta, who has been sent on loan to tragedy-hit Alianza by Colo-Colo, arrives in Lima. Shortly to follow him are Jose Letelier, Parko Quiros and Rene Pinto. They stay for the remaining three months of the current Peruvian championship.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30

ARGENTINA: Struggling Boca Juniors appoint their fourth coach in 12 months. After Cesar Menotti, Roberto Saporiti and Juan Carlos Lorenzo it's the turn of Jose Omar Pastoriza.

BRAZIL: Paolo Roberto Falcao, former World Cup midfielder, turns down a coaching offer from Guarani of Campinas.

PARAGUAY: Juan Romero takes over from Cayetano Re as manager of Paraguay.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: The federation formally confirm the return as national manager of Josef Venglos, in succession to Josef Masopust. Assistant will be Milos Kvacek.

PERU: The navy denies a report that it has given up the search for the 11 remaining bodies of victims of the Alianza plane crash. Still unaccounted for are players Luis Escobar, Alfredo Tomassini, Carlos Bustamenta, Gino Pena, William Leon and Jose Mendoza, physio Rodolfo Lazo, directors Jose Chicona and Washington Gomez and fans Jose Antonio Errea and Julio Cesar Caceres.

SPAIN: Javier Clemente, the Espanol coach not noted for diplomacy, stirs things up before the weekend clash with Cesar Menotti's Atletico Madrid. Clemente says: "The only thing Menotti ever won was bought by his President . . ."

WEST GERMANY: Controversial Toni Schumacher threatens another book — all about the background scandal behind his suspension from the national team following publication of *Kick-off.*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2

CYPRUS: Hooligans even in Cyprus. A last-minute penalty award provokes crowd riots at the league game between APOEL and cup-holders AEL Limassol; 13 people are injured. APOEL score from the penalty to go top of the table.

SPAIN: League leaders and champions Real Madrid beat Barcelona 2-1 in the Estadio Bernabeu. Hugo Sanchez scores both goals for Madrid while Barcelona reply with a Bernd Schuster penalty. It is a first victory over Barcelona in four attempts for Madrid coach Leo Beenhakker.

YUGOSLAVIA: A youth player is voted Footballer of the Year: Robert Prosinecki, midfield star of the Yugoslav team which won the World Youth Cup.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

FRANCE: Marseille defender Karlheinz Förster end speculation over a possible national team comeback for West Germany. He tells Franz Beckenbauer there will be no return.

ITALY: More success for Ruud Gullit. He celebrates his European Footballer of the Year award by inspiring Milan's 4-1 victory over champions and league leaders Napoli in San Siro. In the Turin derby, amid speculation about British attempts to take Ian Rush home, Torino and Juventus draw 2-2.

PORTUGAL: Rio Ave, previously unbeaten at home, crash 7-0 to Porto, for whom Fernando Gomes scores a hat-trick and misses a penalty.

SOVIET UNION: Oleg Protasov, on his way from Dnepr to Kiev, is voted Footballer of the Year. Runner-up is Mikhailichenko of Kiev with Dassayev (Spartak) third.

SPAIN: Menotti has the last laugh as Atletico Madrid win 2-0 away to Espanol with goals by Julio Salinas and Parra . . . Madjer scores a debut goal for Valencia in the 2-1 defeat by Bilbao.

SWITZERLAND: Peter Pazmandy is appointed coach to Sion in succession to former goalkeeper Jean-Claude Donze. Pazmandy, axed in November by Bellinzona, came to Switzerland with Didier Makay and Valer Nemeth in 1956 — refugee members of the Hungarian national youth squad.

MONDAY, JANUARY 4

HOLLAND: Johan Cruyff quits Ajax, walking out after a brief talk with the players after the afternoon training session. President Ton Harmsen says: "I am very disappointed that he should go like that. I've stood by him for two and a half years. I've looked on him as a son and I don't think one should say goodbye in such a way." Cruyff says: "I quit as from now. They don't have to worry about paying me anything." Problems began to surface between Cruyff and some players last summer, he later criticised the club's transfer policy, demanded more control and then threatened to quit if Ajax did not make him a better offer in talks over a new contract.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA president Joao Havelange calls on national and local governments throughout the world, as well as the forces of law and order, to work together to stamp out hooliganism. In an interview with the Brazilian newspaper, Jornal do Brasil, Havelenge adds that he is satisfied that no changes are needed to the laws of the game and that World Cup sponsorship is secured until 1998. Havelange also says that each of the 52 matches at the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy will cost FIFA £800,000 to stage.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5

HOLLAND: Ajax players ask club surgeon Co Greep to act as mediator between the board and Johan Cruyff to try to restore peace in the corridors of power and Cruyff as team manager.

SWITZERLAND: To Welsh dismay, FIFA says that there will be no change in the European World Cup qualifying rules by which the two runner-up teams with the best record from the four-nation groups will go to the finals in Italy. Wales had tried to canvas support for a play-off system between the three teams involved.

WEST GERMANY: Intriguing change at Bayern Munich where the inconsistent West German champions engage Egon Coordes, their former No 2, as assistant coach to the increasingly controversial Jupp Heynckes. Coordes was aide to Udo Lattek from 1984 to 1986 and then, briefly, team boss at Stuttgart . . . Bayer Leverkusen settle on Cologne as venue for the home leg of their UEFA Cup quarter-final against Barcelona. Bayer's own stadium is being redeveloped and capacity is down to 20,000.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6

FRANCE: The board of Toulon reject an offer from Paris Saint-Germain who want to borrow coach Rolland Courbis for the rest of the season. It's no secret that ultimately PSG would like Cruyff . . .

HOLLAND: More trouble for Johan Cruyff. The long arm of the relentless Spanish tax man reaches out in a Dutch court to seek enforcement of a £200,000 claim against Cruyff for tax (plus interest and costs) on money earned during his playing years with Barcelona. Cruyff's consolation is that settlement of the case opens the way for a possible working return to Spain (with Barcelona?).

IRAQ: The Iraqi fedeation is fined £10,000 by FIFA because players tried to attack the referee after the Olympic qualifying defeat against Kuwait on December 18 when Iraq went down 2-1. Security men had to protect referee Nasaden Chandra of Singapore. The matter has also been referred to FIFA's executive committee for possible further disciplinary action against Iraq.

ITALY: Shock in the Italian cup, second round first leg ties. Holders Napoli take an 18th-minute lead through a Maradona penalty, yet lose 3-2 at home to Fiorentina, while Milan go down 1-0 at home to Ascoli. Roma lose 2-1 away to bottom-of-the-first division Empoli but Juventus scrape past Pescara thanks to a delicate opportunist goal from Ian Rush.

SPAIN: Cup upset for Howard Kendall's Bilbao in the Spanish cup sixth round second leg ties. Bilbao beat Castilla, Real Madrid's second division affiliated nursery team, by 2-1 to square the aggregate scores. But Castilla win 7-6 on penalties. Barcelona (1-0 and 4-1 overall against Espanol) and Real Madrid (4-2 and 5-2 overall against Cadiz) are also through, along with John Toshack's holders, Real Sociedad. They beat Gijon 4-0 after a goalless draw in the first leg.

WEST GERMANY: Bayer Leverkusen, whose coach Erich Ribbeck leave at the end of the season, join the queue of top clubs trying to pursue Johan Cruyff. Bayer general manager Michael Meier says: "We don't want to leave ourselves open to criticism that we did not, at least, try to get him" . . . a meeting in Frankfurt between officials of West Germany, Holland, Wales and Finland sorts out fixture dates for World Cup qualifying group four. Wales boss Mike England is furious that FA secretary Alan Evans went without him.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7

ARGENTINA: Further uncertainty over the future of River Plate starlet Claudio Caniggia. Italian club Verona deny reports that they are buying him while fellow Italians, Roma, threatened legal action against any attempts to upset their 'first option' on his transfer . . . Boca Juniors appoint Omar Pastoriza as boss in succession to Juan Carlos Lorenzo. Pastoriza has just left Independiente after the success of Pedro Iso in the club presidential elections.

ITALY: Como axe Aldo Agroppi and replace him as coach with one-time Inter star fullback, Tarcisio Burgnich. The new man promises that he will, unlike the defensive-minded Agroppi, find a regular team place for Argentine World Cup striker, Claudio Borghi.

POLAND: A meeting in Warsaw sorts out fixture dates for the World Cup group involving Poland, Sweden, Albania and England. Two minus points for England are the absence of a last match at home, at Wembley, and the need to face Sweden in 1989 in September — England's traditionally most uncertain month.

WEST GERMANY: All arrangements are confirmed for the following Tuesday's European championship draw in Düsseldorf. Only England, of the eight finalists, will not be taking the draw on live television . . . Bayern Munich coach Jupp Heynckes cancels the one-week holi-

Continued overleaf

WORLD SOCCER DIARY

KEIR RADNEDGE'S EXCLUSI

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Continued from previous page

day his players had been promised, after some appalling results in an indoor tournament. Bayern crash 6-1 to PSV Eindhoven and 7-0 to Stuttgart in the Munich-based event. President Fritz Scherer, backing Heynckes's decision, says: "The players disgraced themselves as no Bayern side has ever done."

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8

AUSTRIA: FK Austria sign the Argentine forward, Jose Percudani, from Independiente. Percudani scored the winning goal in the 1984 World Club Cup win over Liverpool.

BRAZIL: Brazil's veteran former World Cup midfielder, Dirceu, signs a six-month contract with Vasco de Gama. Dirceu, now 35, says he then intends to return to Italy, where he played for Napoli, Verona, Ascoli, Como and Avellino, to launch a football school for boys aged between seven and 14.

FRANCE: The FEF's league committee refuse permission for Brest's controversially-acquired new signing, Robert Cabanas, to play first division football before next season.

ITALY: Diego Maradona says he will end his career back with Boca Juniors after his new, extended contract with Napoli expires in 1993. He tells Italian television viewers: "I will play one last season with Boca to fulfil my mother's dream that one day I and my brothers (Hugo and Lalo) will play together for at least one year." . . . Inter's veteran Argentine, Daniel Passarella, says he will leave Italy at the season's end to go home to Argentina to retire.

SAUDI ARABIA: Saudi Arabia are held 0-0 at home by Kuwait in an Olympic qualifier. Kuwait now lead Iraq by one point in the group.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9

BRAZIL: The newspaper, O Globo, claims that only a handful of stadia come anywhere the World Cup criteria laid down by FIFA. Best stadium is the Morumbi in Sao Paulo, with a capacity of 150,000, and would need only an increase in media seating to meet the standard. Among substandard stadia named is the famous Maracana, in Rio de Janeiro.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

AUSTRALIA: Touring IFK Gothenburg beat Australia 1-0 in Sydney with a goal from Michael Andersson.

EAST GERMANY: Jürgen Sparwasser, the man whose famous goal beat West Germany in Hamburg during the 1974 World Cup finals, is settling in the West. This is confirmed by his old club, Magdeburg, for whom he had been appearing at a veterans' tournament in Saarbrücken.

GREECE: Top two teams, Larisa and OFI Crete, both lose — Larissa 1-0 away to Irakis and OPI by 4-0 away to PAOK Salonika.

ITALY: New setback for Juventus and ian Rush as they lose 1-0 at home to Milan. Gullit scores the winner in the 52nd-minute. A 60,000 crowd pays Turin record receipts of £635,000 . . . Napoli make up for their midweek cup defeat by Fiorentina by thrashing the Florence side 4-0, also in the San Paolo stadium. Careca, Maradona and Giordano (2) score the goals.

SOVIET UNION: The Soviet federation withdraws its bid to host the finals of the 1992 European championship. This leaves only Sweden and Spain as contenders.

SPAIN: Real Madrid are held 1-1 at Murcia but still lead by three points even though Atletico Madrid beat Valencia (plus Rabah Madjer, on loan) by 2-1 and Real Sociedad beat Valladolid 1-0. Barcelona drop Gary Lineker for the 1-0 win over Gijon.

YUGOSLAVIA: Josip Skoblar, sacked by Hamburg, returns to Yugoslav football as coach to bottom club Celik Zenica . . . Partizan claim to have signed two Chinese players, Liu Hainang and Jiu Hikuan.

MONDAY, JANUARY 11

HOLLAND: Ajax Amsterdam warn Sporting Lisbon that they are overdue a payment towards the loan transfer of Frank Rijkaard . . . a court in Utrecht orders Johan Cruyff to pay £170,000 to the Spanish tax authorities. The tax debt, which Cruyff always claimed Barcelona had agreed to meet, was £75,000. Interest and costs lifted the award to £170,000.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12

BULGARIA: Boris Angelov is named new national team manager in succession to Hristo Mladenov. Angelov was formerly national youth coach.

FRANCE: Rabah Madjer, the Algerian now on loan to Valencia in between transfering from FC Porto to Bayern Munich, is voted African Footballer of the Year by the Paris magazine, France Football.

SPAIN: Barcelona are reported to be close to agreement to sell Gary Lineker to Internazionale of Milan . . . in the opening match of the traditional Maspalomas tournament in Las Palmas, Finland beat Czechoslovakia 2-0 with goals from Pantelainen and Alatensio.

WEST GERMANY: The draw for the finals of the European championship takes place in Düsseldorf. Group One matches hosts West Germany with Italy, Spain and Denmark; group two comprises England, the Irish Republic, Holland and the Soviet Union.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13

ARGENTINA: Hugo Orlando Gatti, long-serving goalkeeper of Boca Juniors, says he intends to retire at the season's end.

ITALY: Juventus announce that club captain and former Italian international, Gaetano Scirea, will become assistant trainer from the start of next season.

PORTUGAL: FC Porto secure the European Supercup, beating Ajax of Amsterdam by 1-0 and Sousa the scorer. Porto win 2-0 on aggregate.

SPAIN: Atletico Madrid beat Real Sociedad 2-1 in their Spanish cup quarter-final first leg. Elsewhere Real Madrid lose 3-2 to Sabadell — conceding all their rivals' three goals in the last 14 minutes. Castilla, Real Madrid's nursery team, are held 0-0 by Osasuna, while Barcelona draw 1-1 away to Castellon.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14

BULGARIA: A Soviet adviser, Oleg Basilevich, former Kiev star and later assistant coach, is assigned to the new Bulgarian boss, Boris Anghelov.

SAUDI ARABIA: The Saudi federation is formally confirmed as hosts for the 1989 World Youth Cup.

WEST GERMANY: The European championship organising committee announces that just two days after the draw, all tickets for the opening match in Düsseldorf and the final in Munich, have been sold out . . . Horst Franz is appointed coach to struggling Schalke in succession to Rolf Schafstall.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15

BRAZIL: The CBF's initial 1994 World Cup introductory documentation is described as "lamentable" by FIFA president Joao Havelange.

FRANCE: Gerard Houllier is reappointed coach to Paris Saint-Germain after being eased 'upstairs' earlier in a crisis to make way for Eric Mombaerts, who is now back as assistant . . . Brest president Francois Yvinec lodges an appeal against the league committee's refusal to ratify the Robert Cabanas transfer until the summer.

SOVIET UNION: Vladimir Bessonov, veteran Kiev Dynamo defender, is linked with English first division club, Oxford.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16

CYPRUS: Turkocagi, a club in the Turkish-occupied northern zone of Cyprus, lose 2-0 in a friendly against Turkish cup-winners Genclerbirligi. The Turkish club play despite warnings that they face disciplinary action from FIFA since the northern zone is not recognised by the international federation.

SPAIN: A goal from Butragueno brings Real Madrid a 1-0 victory over championship pursuers Real Sociedad.

THAILAND: Thailand beat Austria 1-0 in Bangkok in the annual King's Cup tournament. China and Oman draw 2-2.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

GREECE: Olympiakos, the big-spending, reviving Greek champions, end the first half of the season with a surprise 2-1 win away to second-place OFI Crete. Olympiakos began the second half 1-0 down and immediately hit two goals in two minutes through newcomer Pachaturides (penalty) and Moustakidis. Leaders Larisa are held 1-1 at home by PAOK.

HOLLAND: PSV Eindhoven's record-breaking run of 17 victories from the start of the season is ended at last as they are held 2-2 at home to Twente. But PSV still lead second-placed Ajax by seven points, with a game in hand.

ITALY: Napoli win away to third-placed Sampdoria by 1-0 thanks to a late goal from Diego Maradona. Milan keep up the title chase with a 5-0 thrashing of Como, despite having Tassotti sent off after 20 minutes. Carlo Ancelotti scores twice and Ruud Gullit chips in with No 5 two minutes from time.

MALAYSIA: HJK Helsinki beat Mitsubishi of Japan 2-0 in the final of the annual inter-city tournament in Kuala Lumpur. Both goals are scored in the second-half — by Kimmo Tarkkio in the 53rd minute and Mika Vauyrunen in the 63rd.

PORTUGAL: No change at the top. Porto and Benfica both win so Porto maintain their four-point lead with the bonus of a game in hand. Benfica turn in their best performance since the dismissal of coach Ebbe Skovdahl just before Christmas — beating third-placed Boavista 2-0 with goals from Rui Aguas and Pacheco.

SPAIN: Bilbao thrash Atletico Madrid 5-1 even though Atletico take the lead through Paulo Futre. This leaves Real Madrid five points clear of the field at the top. Barcelona draw 1-1 at Zaragoza.

THAILAND: Denmark beat Thailand 2-0 in the King's Cup. Michael Manniche scores both goals, in the sixth and eighth minutes. In another match, the Soviet Union beat Malaysia 5-0 with goals from Minayev, Sergeyev, Stogov (2) and Nikitin.

VE GLOBAL NEWS SERVICE

EE POINTS CLEAR

MONDAY, JANUARY 18

ITALY: The Banca Nazionale di Lavoro (BNL), Italy's largest commercial bank, announces that it will be the main distributor, at home and abroad, of tickets to matches in the 1990 World Cup finals. Ticket sales begin in May . . . Napoli midfielder Salvatore Bagni may need an operation on the knee injury which saw him carried off during Sunday's 1-0 win away to Sampdoria.

SWITZERLAND: Servette coach Thierry de Choudens resigns to revert to reserve-team duties. He is succeeded by Claude Donze, formerly of Sion.

THAILAND: Austria beat China 3-2 in the King's Cup in Bangkok. Peter Pacult and Rupert Marko (2) score for Austria, Sun Xianlu and Liu Zhijun for China. In another match Indonesia beat Oman 3-0.

TURKEY: Cup-holders Genclerbirligi face severe disciplinary action both from their own federation and from FIFA after defying orders and playing a friendly match in the Turkish-occupied zone of Cyprus. Club president Ilhav Cavcav says he is ready for any punishment FIFA metes out and will appeal to the International Court of Justice in The Hague if his club is fined more than 5,000 Swiss francs (around £2,500).

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19

BELGIUM: Dimitri Davidovic quits as coach of Beerschot. Jos Smolders, 48, a former player with the club, takes over.

BRAZIL: A FIFA inspection team begins checking out Brazil's stadia with a view to Brazil's staging the 1994 World Cup — starting at Maracana in Rio de Janeiro.

ITALY: Verona officials negotiating the signing of River Plate's Claudio Caniggia says that Danish star Preben Elkjaer could be sold to the Argentine giants as part of the deal ... Ruud Gullit overtakes Diego Maradona: Milan insure the Dutchman for a record £5 million, compared with Maradona's £4 million valuation . . . average first division attendances for the first half of the season are down to 31,250 from 33,083 at the same stage last year. League officials attribute the fall, despite an increase in goal-scoring rates, to reduced capacities in some stadia because of World Cup redevelopment and to the poor form of Juventus.

SPAIN: Barcelona coach Luis Aragones is ordered by the club doctor to stay home and rest for a fortnight because he is suffering from nervous exhaustion. Dr Carlos Bestit says: "He is very weak, as though he had had a nasty attack of flu." Luis, who succeeded Terry Venables last autumn, had previously suffered nervous attacks while coach to Atletico Madrid and Betis.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA announce that the draw for next season's European club first round ties will be made in Geneva on July 12. The first-round dates for 1988-89 are September 7 and October 5 — with a four-week gap in between because of the Olympics in Seoul.

THAILAND: Malaysia and Denmark draw 1-1 in the King's Cup tournament in Bangkok. Lars Olsen scores for Denmark in the eighth minute, with the equaliser coming in the 55th minute from Zainal Abidin Hassan. In another match the South Korean club side Daewoo draw 2-2 with the Soviet Union. Lee Tae-ho (32 and 33) gives Daewoo a 2-0 interval lead. The Soviets hit back through Boris Zavrikov (67) and Alexander Nikitin (36).

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20

FRANCE: UEFA's executive, meeting in Monte Carlo, decide that the ban on English clubs in Europe should be lifted by their next meeting, in Scotland on May 3. However the terms and restrictions have still to be decided and then all will still rest on the behaviour of English fans at the European championship finals in West Germany in June.

ITALY: Ian Rush suddenly explodes into life, in the Italian league. He scores four goals as Juventus win 6-2 away to Pescara in a second round, second leg tie. Juventus win 7-2 on aggregate but Rush is angry at being substituted in the 67th minute. Juve's other goals come from Michael Laudrup. In other ties holders Napoli win 3-1 away to Fiorentina to recover from the brink of elimination but Milan lose 4-2 on penalties to Ascoli after winning 1-0 to square the tie, and Roma fall to first division tail-enders Empoli. Roma, beaten only 2-1 in the first leg, miss out on a quarter-final place after being held goalless at home.

PORTUGAL: League leaders Porto beat Salgueiros 5-0 to catch up on the fixture postponed when they flew to Tokyo before Christmas to beat Penarol in the world club final. Geraldao, Sousa (2), Jaime Magalhaes and Semedo score the goals which lift Porto six points clear of second-placed Benfica.

SPAIN: Michael Robinson hits a hat-trick as Osasuna reach the semi-finals of the Spanish Cup thanks to a 3-1 victory over Castilla in the second leg of their quarter-final; Osasuna win 3-1 on aggregate. In other ties, Barcelona beat Castellon 2-0 (3-1 overall) with goals from midfielders Roberto and Schuster; and Real Madrid are pushed to extra time in the Estadio Bernabeu before they beat Sabadell 2-0 (4-3 overall). Santillana (77) and Llorente (94) are the scorers.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21

BRAZIL: Crisis time, yet again. Flamengo say they will refuse to take part in a four-team tournament being 'organised' by the CBF to sort out the 'real' winner of the 1987 national championship. The CBF say the two 'first division' finalists (Flamengo and Internacional) should play a round-robin tournament against 'second division' winners Guarani and Sport Recife.

PORTUGAL: Maritimo of Funchal axe coach Manuel de Oliveira, who arrived at the end of last season when they narrowly escaped relegation. He is the seventh managerial casualty of the season.

SPAIN: John Toshack's Real Sociedad keep their hands firmly on the cup with a 3-1 victory over Atletico Madrid in their quarter-final second leg. Loren, Beguiristain and Lopez Recarte score the goals which earn a 4-3 aggregate success.

URUGUAY: First division coaches call off a week-long strike aimed at pressuring the federation to appoint a general manager to plan the national team's World Cup campaign.

YUGOSLAVIA: A court in Split hands out jail sentences to the four hooligans involved in throwing a tear gas grenade into the crowd at last autumn's Cup-winners' Cup tie between Hajduk and Marseille.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22

BRAZIL: Rumours in Rio de Janeiro say World Cup right back Josimar could be quitting Botofogo for Dundee United.

SPAIN: Miguel Munoz names his squad for the friendly against East Germany with two surprises: the absence of the back-in-form Real Sociedad keeper, Luis Arconada, but the inclusion of the Sociedad full-back, Luis Maria Lopez Recarte.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24

HOLLAND: Ajax beat Sparta 4-0 to narrow the gap from leaders PSV down to five points. But now PSV have two games in hand.

ITALY: Napoli push on, winning 2-0 against Cesena to maintain a three-point lead over Milan, who beat Pisa 1-0 in San Siro.

SPAIN: No change. Real Madrid win 2-0 away to Valladolid, while Real Sociedad and Atletico Madrid win to preserve the five-point gap. New upset for Barcelona and convalescent coach, Luis Aragones — the Catalans lose 1-0 at home to Osasuna.

JAIME MAGALHAES, scorer of one of Porto's goals in a 5-0 thrashing of Salgueiros.

NEWS REVIEW

MAXWELL B — CARTER

BRIAN GLANVILLE column

WHEN Elton John asked whether one would buy a used car from the Football League Management Committee, when Robert Maxwell boomed and blustered that they were like a bunch of Pakistani umpires, that they should be named The Mismanagement Committee, it was beyond doubt we had reached a low level of discourse.

Yet looking at the whole, horrid affair — which runs on still, as I write this article — it's hard to disagree that the League have made a shocking mess of the matter, shooting themselves in the foot so often that they must now be long since crippled.

Jack Dunnett, ex League President, has assailed Philip Carter, his predecessor; at least in committee. Carter has publicly accused Dunnett of erring when he allowed Maxwell to take control of Derby, at a time when he already possessed Oxford United.

There's no answer to that, as Eric Morecambe, were he still with us, might have said, but by the same token, Carter's own performance has been deeply unimpressive.

As I have said before, the only thing you can say for the inadequate leaders of our football, both at Lancaster Gate and Lytham St. Anne's, is that at least they are clearly honest men.

Would that one could say as much for the game at large. And I do not mean our part of the game.

In my own paper, the *Sunday Times*, Carter made a most unconvincing attempt to justify the "deal" he made with Maxwell, without the support of his Management Committee; which promptly overturned it.

Maxwell would still go in for Watford — though he promised to play no part in the running of it (stop laughing, that boy at the back!), while there were hopes, just hopes, that in the future, he might divest himself from Derby.

As League President, I find Carter marginally more inspiring than a plate of cold porridge. But he must be given right when he implies that before he acceded to the rôle, a ball and chain had been tied around his leg.

Maxwell already had both Derby and Oxford, which meant that the League themselves had voluntarily waived their 1980 Clause 80; whereby no one man could have interests in more than a single club. This, under the aegis of Jack Dunnett, who is himself a notable lawyer.

Legislation

Having thus flouted their own regulation, the League were hardly in a position to crack the whip when Maxwell moved in on Watford. Their decision to hold a meeting of all 92 clubs on January 19, 1988, in the hope of stiffening the rule was, on the face of it, ludicrous.

Retrospective legislation will always look horribly vulnerable in a court of law, the more so when the pass has already been sold. More precisely, when Maxwell has been allowed to add Derby to Oxford.

There is good reason to believe that Maxwell saved both these ailing clubs. Indeed, it has been suggested that this was the consideration which moved Dunnett and his committee to allow Maxwell to gobble up Derby.

Maxwell himself has inveighed against those of us who have emphasised the need for credibility in the League, implying that we have tarnished the good faith of such as Arthur Cox, Dave Bassett and Maurice Evans.

Nothing could have been further from my desires. These are good men and true, and it is exactly for this reason that one wants to save them from being placed in an invidious position.

Were the managers of Oxford, Reading and Watford, in such situation, variously Albert Schweizer, Nurse Edith Cavell and Mother Teresa, their position would still be equivocal. Maxwell is not a stupid man, and he must surely see that.

Why the League called its clubs together at all remains a puzzle, since its eminent solicitors, Herbert Smith, who no doubt took counsel's opinion, were reportedly of the view that Rule 80 was perfectly sufficient in itself. Except, of course, that in allowing Maxwell to take over Derby, the League themselves were flouting it.

Control

Another question. What in the name of logic and common sense did Carter mean when he told the *Sunday Times* that he expected from Maxwell a promise that he would play no part in the running of Watford? This, when it was Maxwell's own company, and his own lieutenant at BPCC, which were to assume control?

Even if Maxwell were to give an impressive imitation of the three wise monkeys, constructively, effectively, it *must* appear that he had a connection with the club.

Having had his "deal" spurned and overturned by the Management Committee, should Philip Carter not have resigned?

His rationalisation for not doing so stuck me as bizarre. There were always disagreements among the members of the management committee, he blandly said. Were they to lead to resignations, these would be taking place all the time.

But my dear Mr. Carter, we were not talking about a simple disagreement. We were talking about a major decision taken by the President, yourself — however you may have presented it later, ex *post facto*, to the *Sunday Times* — which the management committee angrily snubbed and overturned.

To a mere, simple observer such as myself, your position seemed totally untenable. But I live and learn.

TALKING of arcane decisions, the feather heads of FIFA took yet another, with their ill timed, ill conceived, ill presented scheme of pushing the two second-placed clubs with the "best" records in the four-team European qualifying groups into the Finals.

Arbitrary is as arbitrary does. The egregious Hermann Neuberger, bitterly assailed of late by *Stern* magazine in his own country, seems to be the Ethiopian in the Fuel Supply (*pace* W. C. Fields) here.

Arbitrary is as arbitrary does. The benigned organisation which condemned us to World Cup semi-finals decided by penalties wouldn't hesitate to foist still another half-baked, irrational strategem on the competition.

Wales were quite entitled to protest, though in their case, it's hard to see what they are ever going to achieve in the ferociously difficult group in which the draw has plunged them.

I have given up hammering away, as I have done for so many years, at the absurdity of keeping the draw as tightly zoned as it is, allowing farcical teams from the CONCACAF group, so called Oceania and Asia to make their way to the finals, at the expense of far stronger competitors.

But if we are still to keep the zones as tightly buttoned up as when there was no such thing as jet travel, let us at least be as logical and inventive as possible. FIFA's inventions always smack of Heath Robinson.

In a mere four team group, what does "best record" mean? If one were being exigent about it, it would have some relation to the strength of the groups themselves.

Thus, in the Welsh group, which includes Holland and West Germany, the team finishing second would almost axiomatically have done "better" than the second placed team in either of the other groups.

The way to decide such matters is not with a pencil and paper but on the football field, ideally, in this case (if there's anything ideal about the 24 team tournament with which the egregious Havelange has cursed us) in the shape of a play-off among the three teams finishing in second place. What on earth is wrong with that?

POOR Ian Rush, Well, rich, poor Ian Rush. Wrenched from his quiet, happy, comfortable billet in Flint, from his well supported role in the all conquering Liverpool team, his season with Juventus has grown more and more bleak.

Scarcely had Gianni Agnelli, their bankroller, told my *Sunday Times* colleague, Rob Hughes, "Liverpool have spent our money better than we have" than Rush was in trouble with the club for remarks he made in an article in the *Sun*.

Clearly his spoon was not long enough. His criticisms of manager and team had the ring of authenticity; the only question was, whether he had wanted them to appear.

Contract

A furious Giampiero Boniperti, President of the club, ex-skipper, had Rush fined five million lire (about £2,500) and insisted that in the future, all his *Sun* articles, before they shone, be looked at by his lawyer-manager, the lively, amiable Paul Dean.

Ideally, Juventus would like to have seen the contract with the *Sun* terminated, but they realised that this would land Rush in a massively expensive suit.

As things get better and better for Paul Elliott, the player whose transfer to Italy provoked the scorn of Jimmy Greaves and the *Gazetta Dello Sport*, poor Rush finds life as hard as ever.

If he did say that Juventus knew perfectly well how he played and should have bought their others accordingly, then he was totally right. Which of course makes such a statement

OOMS STAYS

all the more provocative and wounding.

Elliott assures me that his little contretemps with Pisa and their explosive President, Romeo Anconetani, which led to his being fined and dropped, was blown grotesquely out of proportion.

He and his team mate, Cecconi, he says, were only an hour late for curfew after a trip to Florence. All that talk about the President keeping watch in his car outside Elliott's apartment was balderdash.

Bobby Robson used, when Elliott was younger, to be a great admirer of the 23 year old centre-half, and I still hope he will go out to have a look at him, given the sad paucity of decent English central defenders, and the difficult test which next June will be provided in West Germany.

Journalist

Talking of Florence, I am terribly sad to recond that my old friend and once fellow journalist, Pier-Cesare Baretti, President of Fiorentina, died last December in an air crash.

Baretti, who became editor of the Turin daily *Tuttosport* before moving into football administration, was a good looking, charming, humorous, gifted, intelligent man, one of those examples of the new Italian phenomenon, the paid President.

In other words the Pontello family had the money in Fiorentina (which enables the father of the family bitterly, publicly and persistently to criticise Baggio and Diaz of the present team), Baretti was in charge of the administration.

He died piloting a Cessna, putting in the flying hours he needed to retain his licence. Alas, he chose a dire day, an afternoon of thick fog in which he completely lost track of his position, flying straight into the side of a mountain, when the poor fellow believed he was flying North, over a plain.

Journey

I well remember a train journey with him, years ago, when I was beginning to investigate the question of referee-corruption by the major Italian clubs, in European football.

I told him of it — he was still a journalist then — and he looked uncomfortable.

"I don't take any interest in *costume*, behaviour, background," he replied. That was the trouble. Honest, decent journalists like Baretti dissociated themselves from the murkier side of Italian football, which in turn was one of the factors which allowed corruption to thrive and prosper.

How good a bet by the way does Italy look for the 1990 World Cup? Endless plane and train strikes, many of them implemented by the unofficial Union groups, the so called COBAS.

Horrifying violence in the stadiums which beats anything we have in England; Tancredi, Roma's goalkeeper, paralysed by a thunderflash, saved only by heart massage, in Milan; an Avellino player knocked flat by a firework at Juventus. A riot in Florence, after Fiorentina-Inter. Roll on 1990.

TESTING TIMES . . . for Ian Rush (above) and FIFA's Northern Ireland vice-president Harry Cavan (below)

'I LIKE TOTA

RUUD GULLIT . . . playing for PSV Eindhoven in Barcelona on the day Milan decided he could be their 'new Rivera'.

How did you prepare for your Italian adventure?

FOR three months before I left Holland I took an Italian language course, one lesson each week. But that was all. I had no great knowledge of football in Italy. Dutch television shows goals from the Italian championship from time to time but that hardly teaches you anything. I knew, of course, that it would be very different from the game in Holland and I was warned to be careful, particularly about the power of the press in Italy to influence officials and fans. But you cannot let yourself become frightened of going out of the front door. Some Italian players cut themselves right off from anybody because if they go out the least gesture or word is criticised. You never see an Italian player at a concert or a disco. But you'll see me! And if the papers make big headlines and big pictures the next day, so what? I hardly bother to read them anyway.

How do you cope with all the attention everywhere you go?

I accept that this is part of my life now. People wouldn't understand if I did not spare them a little of my time. Anyway, the supporters in the north of Italy are comparatively restrained. The further south you go the more they want of you. I can't imagine what it must be like for Maradona at Napoli

Milan are a team of transition so how do you rate your form so far in Italy?

WE are a team with a long way to go yet, that's true. We've played a few awful matches this season. But we are learning to play in a much more attacking style than is usual in Italy. That much I've learned already! We still need more time to get it right. As a professional you accept that you and your team will have ups and downs. Now our coach, Arrigo Sacchi, wants us to play with three forwards. That's hard, particularly on the Italians, because such tactics demand a great deal of flexibility from players who are brought up to play everything cautiously from the back. Do you remember how Juventus beat Porto in the 1984 Cup-winners' Cup final? Porto spent most of the match attacking the Juventus defence but it was Juventus who got two goals from two chances to win the cup. Kids here are born obsessed with 'getting a result'. And the public play along with it because the fans demand, above all, that their team do not lose. If we can play well on top of all that, so much the better. But it's not the priority.

Sacchi, the coach, is new this season as well; is he happy with the way everything is going?

HE'S a good coach who appears to know what he's doing. What he feels about everything is his business. He's decided on a particular style and he needs time to get it right. Trapattoni, at Inter, is a coach who believes that good habits start with getting the defence right. You can't argue, when you see what he achieved at Juventus. But Sacchi places more emphasis on going forward. He's had problems. That's obvious from our results. But it's only because he is still getting to know first division players after having worked several years in the second division with Parma. Don't forget, in Holland, everyone laughed at what Johan Cruyff was doing in the first season after he took over at Ajax.

Now you play an attacking game out of midfield; have you forgotten the time you spent in Holland as a sweeper?

CERTAINLY not. How could I? I spent a long time as a sweeper. First when I was a junior at DWS Amsterdam. It wasn't until I went to Haarlem that I was stuck out on the right wing. And even then they switched me back to sweeper in the middle of my first season . . . until Excelsior beat us 6-0! That got me dropped and when I got back into the team it was in midfield. But I've always thought of myself more as an attacker than a defender. The closer I get to the opponents' goal, the happier I get. Funnily enough, the first time Milan had a good look at me was when I was playing sweeper for PSV in a tournament in Barcelona. But once we got down to serious talks with the Milan president, Signor Berlusconi, I made it clear how and where I am happiest playing.

Which was the most important period of 'apprenticeship'?

THE time I spent at Feyenoord, I think. I remember Wim Van Hanegem saying to me, all the time: Think ahead, think ahead. Really, I was ignorant about the game when I went to Feyenoord. But I was lucky then to spend three years working alongside people like Van Hanegem and Cruyff. That's when I grew up. It wasn't that I talked with them very much. I learned from watching them play, how they dealt with all the problems that arise out on the pitch during a match.

L FREEDOM'

THE ITALIANS have a word for it: Gullitmania. It's a condition sweeping football. The Dutchman with the distinctive rasta dreadlocks cost Milan a world record £5.5 million from PSV Eindhoven last summer. His heroes range from Maradona to Bob Marley. He was World Soccer's World Player of the Year and then voted European Footballer of the Year in the long-running France Football poll — an award he dedicated to the jailed black African leader, Nelson Mandela, since one of Gullit's most passionate causes is the fight against apartheid.

At that time the great young hope of Dutch football was Vanenburg. Was there ever any rivalry between you?

NOT at all. Vanenburg got a lot of fuss. But that happens to a player every few years. Before him there was Blanker. He was going to be the new Cruyff. But where is he now? Recently there has been great talk about the boy Roy, at Ajax. I'm told his father has asked journalists not to write about the kid as if he were an infant prodigy. I suppose my good fortune was that I never found myself facing that sort of problem. I wasn't a teenage superstar.

You learned a lot at Feyenoord. And at PSV too, after your move in 1985?

NOT in the same way. PSV played a very different sort of football. I had to learn a new approach. That was an experience in itself which stood me in good stead when I came to Italy and had to start learning all over again. You know, one of our matches early this season I was carrying a slight injury. I thought I would be all right. But I was wrong. Every match in Italy is like a final. You have to be 101 per cent. In Holland you can get away with winning all your home matches. The only thing you don't know is how many goals you'll win by and how much entertainment the fans will get. It's almost easy. But there's nothing like that in Italy. You should see the state of my legs! Here you have to be mentally and physically . . . hard. You can't get by on technique alone, as you can in Holland. Try that here and you finish flat on your face — literally. Here in Italy you must work for every result you get.

What has Italian football taught you already?

PATIENCE. Above all when we play at home against opponents who rely on catenaccio. No-one would dare play like it in Holland. I remember teams would come to Eindhoven accepting quite calmly that it was going to be a massacre. No-one plays like that in Italy. If you can't win, then you shut up the defence. I suppose anyone who did that in Holland would cause a huge outcry. But here it's all part of the game.

Was that one of the reasons you felt it was time to move on?

LET'S be clear: you can see some very good, very attractive football in Holland. But PSV were too strong. We only got a handful of testing matches each season: when we played in Europe or against Ajax and Feyenoord. When Milan first approached me last season I knew at once that I had to move on to progress. Now that I've become accustomed to the pressure here I think I am much better able to cope with the responsibility of playing for my country. I knew we would win our important European tie in Poland. You remember that we dared not lose. Before, I would have got very uptight. But, having felt what pressure is in Italy, I could approach that game with total confidence.

Do you consider yourself as the focal point of the team with Milan or with the Dutch national side?

NO. I would even go as far as to say that this sort of player is extinct, like the dinosaur or the dodo. Platini was the last. Football is becoming faster all the time. That depends on groups of players. Even at Napoli. You watch them. Maradona doesn't run the whole show. He is brought into play, or intervenes himself, only at the vital moments. That's how Argentina won the World Cup in Mexico.

Of course, Holland weren't there. But they will be in West Germany for the finals of the European championship. Can Holland win?

WE are ready for the finals. Whether we will win I cannot say. But I will promise this: people will enjoy watching us try. We have an excellent squad. If someone is injured or suspended then we have other players of such quality that nobody is missed. The one regret I have is that Rinus Michels is retiring as manager after the finals. I wish he could stay a few more years. Dutch football needs him in that job. He knows how to organise our game for whatever the situation. Whether we have to attack, or defend. You know we can play it as tight as the next team. It isn't our style but unfortunately you have to dig in sometimes to succeed at the highest level. Last season, when PSV played Bayern Munich in the Champions' Cup, I was certain we would win. Until after the first five minutes. Then I knew we would lose. It was the way Bayern played. It said everything. They wanted the result and were determined to get it. It's the Italian way, too, you know . . .

WHO IS RUUD GULLIT?

Born: Amsterdam, Sept 1, 1962
Career: Meerboys (from the age of eight), DWS Amsterdam (as junior), FC Haarlem (1979-82; 32 goals in 91 games), Feyenoord (1982-85; 30 goals in 85 games), PSV Eindhoven (1985-87; 46 goals in 68 games), Milan (from summer 1987).
League debut: At 16 on Aug 18, 1979 for Haarlem in a 2-2 draw against MVV Maastricht.
International debut: In a 2-1 defeat by Switzerland in Zurich on Sep 1, 1981 — his 19th birthday.
International caps: 32.
Titles: Champion of Holland in 1984 (Feyenoord), and in 1986 and 1987 (with PSV Eindhoven); Dutch cup-winners in 1984 (Feyenoord); Dutch Footballer of the Year in 1985; European Footballer of the Year in 1987; World Player of the Year 1987.
Greatest career influences: Barry Hughes, Wim Van Hanegem, Johan Cruyff.
Family: Dutch mother but father George came from Surinam where he was an international player with the Robin Hood Club of Paramaibo, Gullit and wife Yvonne have two daughters — Sharmayne, born on Nov 17, and Felicity, aged two. Current players he admires: Franco Baresi, Gianluca Vialli, Salvatore Bagni and Diego Maradona ("The best in the world. I think everyone in football must admire and respect his ability.")
Politics: Anti-apartheid campaigner, who dedicated his European Footballer of the Year award to the jailed black African leader, Nelson Mandela.
Other interests: Music — he gave a reggae concert in Milano's Palatrussardi theatre, the same stage used previously by the likes of Sinatra and Paul Simon. Musical hero — Bob Marley.
Nicknames: The "Coloured Falcao" — courtesy of Nils Liedholm.
On his rasta hairstyle: "Everyone needs an image which reflects their personality. I like total feedom in all things. That includes my hair."

Why have I got to mark him?

Roma's BRUNO CONTI just doesn't know how to cope with Milan's latest hero.

CONFUSION among the players of Roma and Milan . . . as Roma team doctor Ernesto Alicicco attends to goalkeeper Franco Tancredi . . . and the fans watch the scuffling as the attacker makes his getaway.

Report and pictures from KEIR RADNEDGE in Milan

MILAN'S fans taunted the visiting hordes from Roma with a chant of "Liverpool, Liverpool, Liverpool"; they followed up with an Italian version of God Save our Team to the very tune of the national anthem (British, that is, not Italian).

Then they felled the Roma goalkeeper with two thunderflash fireworks, known as 'cherry bombs'.

This is football Italian-style right now. The goalkeeper, Franco Tancredi, suffered a bruised jaw where the first missile struck him and a cardiac arrest from shock. Literally, club doctor Ernesto Alicicco's prompt resuscitation saved his life.

And that was before the second half in San Siro had even started.

That, in fact, was how Tancredi came to be struck in the face at all and why he was lying prone when the second firework landed at his side.

The score in the Stadio Giuseppe Meazza was 0-0 at the interval. When the teams returned to the pitch, Tancredi ran down into the penalty area in front of the so-called Lions' Den, San Siro's equivalent of The Shed; home for the most unruly of home fans.

As Tancredi reached his six-yard box someone hurled a toilet roll over the spiked fence. Tancredi caught it and, smiling, hurled it back into the crowd. He was still smiling when the thunderclap caught him in the face.

Tancredi collapsed. Chaos ensued. Roma's players, angry and upset, milled around goalkeeper and referee. Worried coach Nils Liedholm pursued the stretcher-bearers across the pitch. The Milan players, bewildered, stood rooted to their spots, where they had been awaiting the restart whistle.

Credit now where it was due: to referee Piero D'Elia. He had a faultless match anyway. But he surpassed himself in the crisis: seeing Tancredi hurried from the pitch, seeing substitute goalkeeper Peruzzi quickly into place, clearing the pitch of the usual 'extras' and getting the game back under way.

Many other referees might have fussed and vacillated. D'Elia realised the best way to defuse the situation was to get on with the football. Which they all did.

And which Milan won with an 83rd-minute penalty converted by Pietro Paolo Virdis after Daniele Massaro had been pushed to the ground.

But Milan's team walked from the pitch at the end, down the long extended snake of a protective tunnel, knowing that they were the real losers.

Just as Pisa and Juventus, respectively, had lost a *tavolino* earlier in the season to Napoli and to Cesena.

In September Napoli's Alessandro Renica was struck by a coin as he left the pitch at half-time in a 1-0 defeat at Pisa. Napoli were awarded a 2-0 victory by the federation's disciplinary committee.

Six weeks later Cesena's Dario Sanguin was stunned by a firecracker which exploded just in front of him, also at half-time during a 2-1 defeat by Juventus, Cesena, like Napoli, emerged with a 2-0 victory on judge's orders.

Juventus huffed and puffed, but the precedent had been set long ago. As far back, indeed, as 1929 when Milan had themselves been granted a 2-0 victory over Cremonese after the Cremona fans forced the match to be abandoned.

The Tancredi case would be the 52nd result awarded in committee. It was also the 14th awarded for assault on a player since 1953 when Bologna's Giovannini was attacked on the pitch by fans of Udinese. History was thus in Roma's favour.

They had travelled to Milan without the injured Rudi Völler and Zibi Boniek yet came away, in due course, with both points. But Tancredi and Milan were not the only ones to suffer.

The incident did nothing to improve the image of *Calcio* in the international limelight in the immediate wake of the draw for the qualifying rounds of 'their' World Cup in 1990.

How can we justify being worthy to stage the World Cup when our fans knock players over every other week? — was one anguished question put to Liedholm after the game.

The veteran Swede, in those soft low tones which strain even the microphones under his very nose, diplomatically skirted the issue.

For years as a player, and then as a coach, he was master of San Siro. His over-riding reaction was a world-weary sadness.

The new master of San Siro promises to be Ruud Gullit. A few weeks earlier he was voted Player of the Year by *World Soccer* readers and writers. A few weeks later he would be crowned European Footballer of the Year by *France Football*.

The Dutchman has the technique, skill and vision which plant him firmly in direct succession to the traditions of Liedholm and Gianni Rivera.

To say that goalkeepers are not safe when he is around would once have been an acceptable reference to the power of his shooting. Not now.

Gullit, remember, was playing for Holland the day Andreas Charitou of Cyprus was struck down by a smoke bomb in Rotterdam in the European championship.

Now another rival goalkeeper had suffered a similar blow a matter of months later.

Gullit has charisma on and off the pitch. With luck, proper support and good refereeing he can be one of the most alluring personalities of the European championship finals in West Germany this summer.

Off the pitch he copes apparently effortlessly with the crossfire of questioning in Dutch, English, German and Italian which cascades around him in the aftermath of every match.

His reaction to the Tancredi drama was open and candid. None of the spurious 'professional' pretence.

He admitted: "It's hard to get back to the game. It's impossible to concentrate. When something as horrific as that happens to a fellow player, whichever side he is on, it's like a bomb going off in your own head. And this is the third such incident. What a ridiculous season.

"The problem is that football cannot ever come up with the definitive answer. Behaviour like that is a problem of society today. You cannot stop people going to football matches.

"And how can you tell who is likely to throw something like that? You cannot strip-search everyone at the door."

Is a temporary closure of stadia the answer? Apparently not, in the case of San Siro. Remember that Milan had to play their two UEFA Cup 'home' ties this season at Lecce because of a UEFA ground suspension. The anomaly was that neighbours Inter were able to play *their* UEFA Cup games in this same stadium.

Much good that did Franco Tancredi.

At least Milan's supporters did delay the hooligan in his flight long

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Clubs benefitting from th capital
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Season	Match
1929-30	Cremonese v MILAN
1930-31	Legnano v LAZIO
	Napoli v AMBROSIANA-INTER
	Napoli v TORINO
1932-33	Bari v ROMA
1933-34	Milan v NAPOLI
1934-35	Livorno v NAPOLI
1939-40	Milan v BOLOGNA
	Venezia v MILAN
1940-41	Napoli v LAZIO

ANCREDI 'DIES' TER EXPLOSION

OLL OF DISHONOUR
e disciplinary verdict in letters
st' their match victory

1946-47	Venezia v SAMPDORIA
	Brescia v VENEZIA
	Bologna v BRESCIA
1947-48	Bari v GENOA
1948-49	Pro Patria v BOLOGNA
	JUVENTUS v Bologna
	Genoa v PRO PATRIA
1949-50	Palermo v TRIESTINA
1951-52	Legnano v BOLOGNA
1952-53	* Udinese v BOLOGNA
1953-54	* Napoli v GENOA
1954-55	Fiorentina v BOLOGNA
1958-59	Roma v ALESSANDRIA
1959-60	Napoli v GENOA
1961-62	Atalanta v MILAN
1962-63	* Venezia v MILAN
	Napoli v MODENA
1963-64	Genoa v CATANIA
	Messina v LAZIO
	Bari v GENOA
1965-66	Catania v TORINO
1966-67	Foggia v MILAN
1967-68	* Inter v CAGLIARI
1968-69	Atlanta v ROMA
	Palermo v NAPOLI
1969-70	Bari v VERONA
1970-71	Napoli v MILAN
1972-73	Roma v INTER
1974-75	Napoli v JUVENTUS
	Milan v JUVENTUS
1975-76	Sampdoria v INTER
	Juventus v TORINO
	* Fiorentina v COMO
1976-77	Napoli v JUVENTUS
	Napoli v FIORENTINA
1977-78	Pescara v MILAN
	Milan v LAZIO
1978-79	Napoli v LAZIO
1982-83	Juventus v INTER
1987-88	* Pisa v NAPOLI
	* Juventus v CESENA
	Milan v ROMA

enough for policemen to identify him as a 23-year-old, out-of-work builder's labourer, named Luigi Sacchi.

He had been banned from San Siro since November 8 when he was charged with damaging a car in a brawl at a match between Vigevano, his home team, and Lecce, in which a policeman suffered a broken leg.

It was the policeman who had arrested him then who spotted him in the scuffling which followed the attack on Tancredi.

When Sacchi got off his train home at Vigevano police were waiting. He was arrested, charged then released on bail. The maximum penalty for malicious use of such an explosive device is four years in jail.

Back home Sacchi admitted getting into the ground on a friend's ticket. He added: "I didn't mean to hurt anybody. I just wanted the firecracker to fall near the goalkeeper.

"Other people had been throwing them and I had one in my pocket, so I decided to throw mine too. Afterwards I was afraid that he was dead."

Tancredi, for his part, admitted that during his dizzy hours in hospital in Milan that Sunday evening, he had considered quitting the game. Hardly surprising.

He had also been a firecracker victim while playing for Roma in a 1-1 draw in Perugia in December 1980. But the day after San Siro, Tancredi had second thoughts.

He said: "I will never forget this. A football pitch is a place to work, not to die. Football has been my life and I admit I am afraid of playing again. But I love the game too much to turn my back on it now."

On the Tuesday, new federation president Antonio Matarrese held an emergency meeting with Interior Minister Amintore Fanfani. The remedies were predictable.

A clampdown had already been instituted on alcohol sales. Now they proposed tighter controls on ticket sales and at stadium gates, better crowd surveillance with video equipment, helicopter patrols and private security guards.

But, as Gullit pointed out, these measures cannot solve the root problem; only strive to control its excesses.

A fellow import to Italian soccer, Michael Laudrup of Juventus and Denmark, believes player behaviour on the pitch can provoke trouble off it. He says: "I can't stand the way some of the Italian players make a scene when they fall over.

"They lie on the pitch for three minutes or more and doctors and physios and coaches all fuss around. Then, as soon as they're back on their feet, you see them making a 50-metre sprint across the pitch.

"That's not for me. I'm sure provocative incidents on the pitch are partly to blame for crowd trouble."

What a contrast between the self-confident and relaxed Gullit at Milan, and the introverted Laudrup and Ian Rush at Juventus.

Laudrup openly admits he does not enjoy his football in Italy and wishes he could melt out of sight of his public between matches. His intense dislike of the personality cult which Italian fans build around their heroes is no help as an example to the Welshman as he struggles to come to terms with Juventus and *Calcio*.

The day before Milan v Roma, Rush was fined £2,000 by Juventus for an article which appeared under his name in *The Sun*. Maybe here, at least, he could have learned something from Laudrup.

The Dane says: "My rule is: Keep quiet when we lose and take care with words when we win."

Laudrup says Juve's problems are a matter of confidence rather than character. But, having had a chance to compare the words and actions of Laudrup and Gullit, it's hard to agree. The distance between the men and their achievements this season is measured in personality.

Gullit hardly had an outstanding game against Roma. It was a scrappy, patternless affair with some nasty studs thrown in along with those fateful firecrackers.

But all the signs are that Gullit is coming out on top. As if to prove the point, he celebrated his European award at the start of January by inspiring Milan's 4-1 victory over champions and league leaders Napoli just five days later.

And Tancredi? He plays on. "For the sake of football," he says. I only hope he sees his faith rewarded.

MICHAEL KONSEL...Rapid Vienna goalkeeper

Eight reach Austria title play-offs

AFTER 22 matches in the initial phase of the Austrian first division programme, eight clubs have qualified for the championship play-off this spring.

They are Rapid, FK Austria, Grazer AK, Admira/Wacker, Tirol, Sturm Graz, First Vienna and Wiener Sportklub. But Voest Linz, Linzer ASK, Klagenfurt and promoted Mödling join four clubs from the second division for the play-offs against relegation.

The campaign was dominated by Rapid while their remaining rivals faltered disappointingly. Even FK Austria could not mount a serious challenge; they obviously miss Toni Polster, one of Europe's leading strikers and now with Torino in Italy. Austria's team boss Karl Stotz was fired and his assistant Ferry Janotka didn't have much time to put matters right.

Rebuild

Eight points separate FK from the leaders, though in the last match before the break FK beat Rapid 2-1 in the 172nd derby before a crowd of just 7,500. It was Rapid's first defeat after 30 league matches.

Disappointing too, were FC Tirol whose new chief Ernst Happel clearly needs time to rebuild the side. They crashed in the last game to Vienna by 1-3 and finished fifth.

Grazer AK, the surprise packet of the season, were unbeaten in 16 home matches before crashing sensationally to Vienna by 4-0.

Grazer's German forward Dieter Schatzschneider, who before the match was praised by his German compatriot and team manager Adi Pinter as "the best striker in Austrian football", lost his nerve and was sent off in the 40th minute for continual dissent.

Splendid

Vienna striker Gerhard Steinkogler, who once played in Germany, hit two splendid goals to end Grazer's run of success.

Vienna lost their Argentinian world champion Mario Kempes but nonetheless produced a strong finish to stay up among the elite.

How ailing the game is in this country was demonstrated in the penultimate round in which the seven top clubs failed to win and all 12 teams scored just nine goals between them.

The lack of success at international level — all five Austrian clubs were eliminated early in European tournaments — a one-sided, boring championship, few spectators and bad weather — well, the winter break could not have come quickly enough . . .

CONSIS

IT WOULD indeed be ironic if Werder Bremen were to become West German champions in the season following the departure of their most experienced players.

The national team's top striker Rudi Völler (transferred to Roma), the outstanding central defender and Austria's national captain Bruno Pezzey (returned home to FC Tirol) and the long serving keeper Dieter Burdenski, 37, have all had to be replaced. And how successfully!

After 18 matches Bremen led the table two points clear of Köln and three ahead of Bayern Munich with a game in hand.

In nine home matches they only dropped one point and boast a goal tally of 20-3. Overall they only lost once and hit 32 goals against nine.

Bremen could win the Bundesliga having been recently a model of consistency. In the past six seasons Werder have never finished lower than fifth.

They have also provided the most memorable European tie this season.

After losing 4-1 to Spartak Moscow, Bremen delighted millions of television fans by crushing the Soviet champions 6-2 to reach the third round. Now they face another Soviet side, Dynamo Tbilisi, in the quarter-finals of the UEFA-Cup.

Team manager Otto Rehhagel, 49, in charge since 1981, will not concede that his team are favourites to take the title for only the second time after 1965.

He claims he didn't expect such a run of success so early — "But there is a fantastic spirit in the squad and all the newcomers have fitted in perfectly.

"I was told by the directors to revive the ageing team and rebuild practically from scratch. We didn't reckon to be so well placed at the half-way stage."

Bremen's strength has been the newly formed striking duo of the two Franks, Neubarth and Ordenewitz.

Before the season Rehhagel stated: "It is my ambition to turn Neubarth into an international striker."

Most experts were sceptical and some were amused for the 25-year-old, who came from Concordia Hamburg five years ago, broke his leg in the autumn of 1986 in a match against Atletico Madrid.

Last April another fracture was discovered in his shinbone and another operation was necessary. Today it is Rehhagel who is laughing.

National team chief Franz Beckenbauer would already have picked Neubarth for the match with Hungary in November, but Bremen's trainer advised against it, saying: "Frank is not yet 100 per cent fit."

Nonetheless, he produced a brilliant performance against Spartak Moscow and continues to score vital goals. Meanwhile he starred in West Germany's Olympic team.

It would surprise no one to find the tall Neubarth (6ft 3) in the European Championship squad in the role of the 'tank', like Dieter Hoeness in Mexico.

And Neubarth is more versatile for he can also play as an attacking midfielder, since he is highly intelligent and technically sound.

Rehhagel even calls him "Socrates", after the Brazilian maestro and star of the 1982 and 1986 World Cup teams.

Ordenewitz, 22, now nearly seven years with Bremen, formerly with the 'village' team of TSV Dorfmark, is another star in the making. He was already picked for the 1-1 draw with Brazil recently when he substituted for Schwabl in the 1-1 draw.

Title holders Bayern Munich on the other hand have not been very convincing. Their lowest point was their fifth defeat, by 3-1 at home to lowly Borrusia Dortmund.

The sparse crowd of just 11,500 chanted in unison "Udo Lattek, Udo Lattek" — after the former team boss now in Cologne.

New team chief Jupp Heynckes claimed his defenders didn't follow instructions.

Neutral observers believe Bayern's earlier successes only served to camouflage the real crisis. Heynckes is looking for scapegoats among the players and

ONE POINT LEA

FOLLOWING the most hectic period in Swiss modern league history the first phase of the championship was completed in mid-December.

After 22 matches title holders Xamax Neuchatel held a one-point lead over Grasshoppers, with cup-winners Young Boys a further four points adrift.

Eight clubs qualified for the championship play-offs, which will begin on March 6, taking half the points total with them, so that already there will be a gap between Xamax and the teams placed 5th to 8th — St. Gallen, Lucerne, Servette and Lausanne — of four points.

Into the "cellar" dropped such famous clubs as FC Zurich, who finished last, Basel one off the bottom, Bellinzona and surprisingly Sion whose failure came in the most dramatic circumstances. Ten minutes from the end of the final round it looked as if Lucerne were to be consigned to the relegation pool. Then Sion's keeper Pierre-Marie Pittier made an elementary error letting a shot by Grasshoppers' Brazilian Paulo Cesar roll over the line for a grotesque goal which beat Sion 2-1. Had the match ended 1-1, then Lausanne would have dropped into the last four, for Lucerne scored a third goal to win 3-0 at Zurich and climbed to sixth place.

AHEAD REAK

only last season, is well known to us here in France.

Still, with Zlatko Vujovic back, with José Toure scoring goals again, with a midfield which boasts the likes of Tigana, Bijotat (the man Houllier so badly wanted for Paris S-G) and Girard, with Ferreri and Fargeon full of life, there is no reason to despair. No one will have an easy time of it in Bordeaux.

Alas, the long break will be a gloomy time for Henri Michel and his French international prospects. No European Championship finals in which to defend that lost 1984 title, and a World Cup qualifying group which looks anything but easy.

The trouble is that since Mexico, the whole darn team has gone to pieces in Michel's hapless hands.

Platini's retirement was bad enough, but losing Tigana, Giresse, Bossis and Bosquier just put the tin lid on it. Indeed, critics have been asking if such players couldn't have been persuaded to play on. The youngsters are still, alas, too raw for the moment.

FRANCOIS YVINEC, president of Brest, raises his champagne toast to his escape from Colombia along with Paraguayan forward Robert Cabanas (right).

PSV SET DUTCH RECORD

by Simon Kuper

IVAN NIELSEN

PSV EINDHOVEN have won their first 17 league matches, setting a Dutch record for most consecutive wins. The run was finally ended by a 2-2 home draw against Twente, but the championship is as good as theirs already.

They are also in the race for the European Cup — they meet Bordeaux in the quarter-finals — and have reached the third round of the Dutch cup.

PSV owe their success largely to the backing of the Eindhoven-based electronics company Philips. The financial tie with Philips goes back to 1913, when PSV started life as the Philips' factory team.

Yet until about two years ago the southern club could never match Ajax and Feyenoord. PSV might spend the most on transfers, but their big names never formed a team. The rest of the country regarded PSV as provincial upstarts.

In 1985 PSV changed. Philips provided even more money, which PSV started to use sensibly, buying players who fitted together.

As a result, they have won the last two league championships, and crowds are averaging over 20,000. The current side is one of the six or seven best in Europe.

It is composed of players with years of experience at the highest level, all in their prime, and almost all current internationals.

Hans van Breukelen (ex-Nottingham Forest) is probably the best goalkeeper in Holland. You never notice his centre-backs, Addick Koot and the Dane Ivan Nielsen, but proof of their quality is that you never notice the strikers they are marking either.

Koot, incidentally, is PSV's only uncapped player. The Belgian Eric Gerets and the Dane Jan Heintze are modern overlapping full-backs, fast and aggressive.

PSV's defensive strength allows sweeper Ronald Koeman to go forward at will.

The midfield consists of old pro Soren Lerby, the muscular Berry van Aerle, and the gifted Gerald Vanenburg, who is becoming more and more effective.

In attack the huge Wim Kieft acts as foil for the nimble Hans Gillhaus.

The Dane Frank Arnesen and the Norwegian Hallvar Thoresen are normally first-time regulars, but at present are injured. To fill this gap PSV bought Anton Janssen, 24, from Fortuna Sittard in December.

PSV's manager is Guus Hiddink. He is successful and likeable, but the club's board consider him too inexperienced to have charge of a side as ambitious as PSV.

Next season, therefore, he will probably have to work under Rinus Michels, the current manager of the Dutch national side.

Success has not brought PSV popularity in Holland. They are still seen as parvenus, who kill excitement in the league by buying their rivals' best players, and who despite their superiority play clinical, counter-attacking football.

by IAN MACLEOD

Benfica in the quarter-finals is not beyond their reach.

Their championship bid disintegrated after successive defeats against St. Trond, Antwerp and Standard. A 1-1 draw at Kortrijk added to the gloom, though Anderlecht performed closer to their own high standards in an exciting 3-2 win at home to Mechelen. But, it was to provide only a temporary respite from a growing list of problems and a 20,000 crowd at Charleroi two weeks later saw Bosch's 14th-minute goal for the rejuvenated home side make Anderlecht's title virtually irretrievable.

Of the challengers, Brugge are more consistent than Mechelen, even though they allowed a gap to open when the other Antwerp club, Beerschot, travelled to Olympiapark and inflicted Club's only home defeat of the season by 4-2. Mechelen found defeats at Waregem and Anderlecht even more costly.

Brugge not only remain on Antwerp's tail, they have shown a remarkable capacity for survival in the UEFA Cup. Their latest Houdini act, in the third round against Borussia Dortmund, surpassed even their earlier feats against Zenit Leningrad and Red Star Belgrade.

Brugge, 3-0 down from the away leg raised hopes of a recovery when Jan Ceulemans reduced the deficit after only ten minutes. They subsequently pounded Borussia's rearguard, but although Franky van der Elst made it 2-0 in the 49th minute, it required a penalty from his namesake Leo, with only seven minutes remaining, to send the game into extra-time.

Where, once again the Van der Elsts were prominent; Franky scored in the 99th minute and a second penalty from Leo eight minutes later put the tie beyond Borussia's reach and secured Brugge a fascinating quarter-final tie against Panathinaikos, themselves reknowned for their powers of recovery.

There was a double helping of good news for the national side. Coach Guy Thys has agreed to stay on and guide the 'red devils' through the qualifying stages of the 1990 World Cup, where Belgium's opponents are Czechoslovakia, Portugal, Switzerland and Luxembourg. The draw was well received and with two to qualify, Belgium seem well-placed to go to Italy.

REAL ARE STILL TOP

REAL MADRID are still firmly on top in Spain, with a four-point lead over challengers Atletico Madrid and Real Sociedad, who share second place, writes DUNCAN SHAW.

Champions Real confirmed their leadership after the Christmas break by beating mediocre Barcelona in the Bernabeu far more comfortably than the 2-1 scoreline suggests.

For the clash of giants, Real were without suspended centre-backs Miguel Tendillo and Manolo Sanchis, as well as playmaker Ricardo Gallego.

In addition, Emilio Butragueno limped off after just half an hour.

But Real did have the services of Hugo Sanchez, and it was his goals — a penalty in the 23rd minute when Butragueno had been pulled by Gerardo, and a perfect header to a Gordillo cross just before the interval — which won a poor match.

Sanchez has now put away 19, and it's difficult to imagine anyone preventing him from being top scorer for the fourth consecutive Spanish season.

In between the Sanchez strikes, referee Urio Velazquez awarded Barca a dubious penalty for a Camacho tackle on Roberto, and Bernd Schuster made no mistake from the spot.

This was one of the rare occasions when Barca entered the Real penalty area, despite Leo Beenhakker having to play Michel as sweeper and draft in 18 year-old Juan Jose Maqueda — not to be confused with the still injured Real and Spain sweeper Antonio Maceda — as centre-half.

Maqueda made a dream debut, and would have scored had it not been for two splendid saves from Andoni Zubizarreta.

Another name for the future is Adolfo Aldana, the tall midfielder from the nursery team Castilla who competently replaced the injured Butragueno.

Barca were terrible, Schuster and Lineker included, and coach Luis Aragones raised eyebrows when he claimed his team had played well. Even though Barca are doing well in the UEFA and Spanish cups, the Bernabeu beating was their third successive league defeat.

Two weeks before Christmas, the Catalans crashed 1-4 away to a rampant Real Sociedad. John Toshack's two-goal hero was the veteran international midfielder Jesus Zamora. Next Sunday, Barca were leading Valladolid 2-1 in Camp Nou with half an hour remaining.

Then disaster struck when 22 year-old visiting centre forward Manuel Pena tore the ageing Barca defence apart with a dramatic late hat-trick, giving Valladolid a 4-2 win and lifting them up to fourth place.

Clearly, poor Luis was not on top of the job — an impression confirmed a couple of weeks later when he was sent home to rest for a fortnight, suffering from 'nervous exhaustion.'

It's not the first time the pressures of the job have got to him: Luis was taken ill during earlier appointments with Atletico Madrid and Betis. All the more surprising that he was the man to step into the breach left by the departure of Terry Venables.

Barsa's defeat by Valladolid was not the only shock result of the last Sunday before the festive break. John Mortimore's job at Betis was on the line before the visit of Real Madrid.

But his young team saved his skin with a spirited 2-1 win, with early goals from Jose Melenas and Quico.

By the time Sanchis pulled one back for the champions, it was too late.

Neighbours Atletico, however, failed to take advantage of Real's second defeat of the season, losing 1-0 at home to Sevilla thanks to a counter-attack strike from Ramon. Another Christmas present to the South from the generous capital.

The only team to take advantage was Real Sociedad, who continued their winning run by coming from behind to win 2-1 at Murcia.

After the break, Toshack's men carried on in the same vein, beating Cadiz 2-1 at home to stay four points behind Real Madrid.

Spice

Apart from the Real Madrid-Barca clash, the two matches which commanded interest on the first Sunday after Christmas were Espanol-Atletico and Valencia-Bilbao.

Spice was added to the former clash by the public slanging match between coaches Javier Clemente and Cesar Luis Menotti.

It had begun five years ago, when Menotti — then in charge at Barca — accused Clemente of "fascist tendencies" for encouraging the violence of his Bilbao team — especially of Andoni Goikoechea — against Diego Maradona.

During Christmas, Clemente hit back by claiming that Menotti was a "playboy" and that his high reputation was undeserved because Argentina only won the 1978 World Cup — the old chestnut — "thanks to General Videla bribing Peru."

But the Argentine had the last laugh, Atletico comfortably beating Espanol 2-0 in Barcelona. And — irony of ironies — Menotti's best player was a certain Goikoechea.

All hell broke loose when Rabah Madjer — en route between Porto and Munich — headed Valencia into an early lead against Bilbao. But the near-capacity crowd was silenced when Howard Kendall's Basques put away two goals of their own and ran off 2-1 winners. Madjer might now need all of his skills and strength to prevent Valencia from returning to the second division.

And finally, one surprising sacking to note. Zaragoza have parted company with Luis Costa, in charge since July 1985.

TOSHA THE E

JOHN BENJAMIN TOSHACK . . . The Spanish media, with a rare sense of English irony, emphasize the middle name of this giant Welshman, whose team, Real Sociedad of San Sebastian, are second in the Spanish League, three points behind the more famous, all-conquering, Real — Real Madrid.

After his success at Swansea and an unhappy ending to his year at Sporting Lisbon in Portugal, Toshack arrived in San Sebastian to revitalise a club which had achieved unprecedented success in the early eighties, winning two League titles and narrowly losing to Hamburg in a European Cup semi-final.

Abroad, San Sebastian is more famous for its film festival and beaches. Capital of the smallest Spanish province, Guipuzcoa, its football potential is similar to that of Ipswich, a small club proud of doing things well.

In the Basque nationalist context that means, as with neighbouring Athletic Bilbao, exclusive use of home-grown players. This partly explains the directors' decision to fire Ormaechea, the previous manager, and bring in new ideas, not by signing players, but in the form of a British manager with a penchant for attacking football.

Ormaechea's team had used a defensive system, achieving the club's record unbeaten run in 1980 (when they finished second to Real Madrid), and winning the championship in 1981 and 1982.

The next two seasons saw the League title go to Bilbao, proving that the expensive buys of Barcelona and Real were not necessary for clubs who know how to nurture young players and actively support grass-roots football in their area.

Real Sociedad formed the backbone of Spain's 1982 World Cup squad, but the national team manager, Jose Santamaria, in part blinded by a raving press after Spain's first-ever victory over England at Wembley, did not realise until too late that their counter — attacking style was not a lot of use in a World Cup at home where the local team was obliged to carry the game to their opponents.

Two of those international players survive in Real's present squad. One is Luis Arconada, the goalkeeper playing as well as he ever did for Spain but relegated from international football in favour of fellow-Guipuzcoan Andoni Zubizarreta. (Guipuzcoa can regularly claim to provide one half of Spain's first division 'keepers).

The other is Jesus Maria Zamora, a creative midfield player rejuvenated since Toshack's arrival.

Toshack's praise of these two veteran players shows his commitment to the club's policy.

Brushing aside talk of the title race he said: "Zamora is in his second youth, and both he and Arconada are outstanding examples for the youth-team players and reserve team here."

Indeed, the rest of the squad are young, talented and attack-minded players brought through Real's youth and reserve teams, many of whom have been blooded in the First Division under Toshack's rule.

Watch out for Jose Bakero, wanted by Howard Kendall for Bilbao.

Another name to note is Loren, a centre-forward who started as centre-half but is now leading scorer in Spain's under-21 team.

Behind these is Larrañaga, the "lungs" of the team, whose strength

JESUS — HIGH DEGREE OF SKILL

JESUS LANDABURU of Atletico Madrid must qualify as one of the world's most academically distinguished midfieldmen, writes MICHAEL BUTCHER.

Graduate of Computer Sciences from the University of Madrid, Landaburu developed as a footballer in Madrid's third-class team, Rayo Vallecano.

From there, he went to luxury class Barcelona where his cool skills as a playmaker were on display for three years.

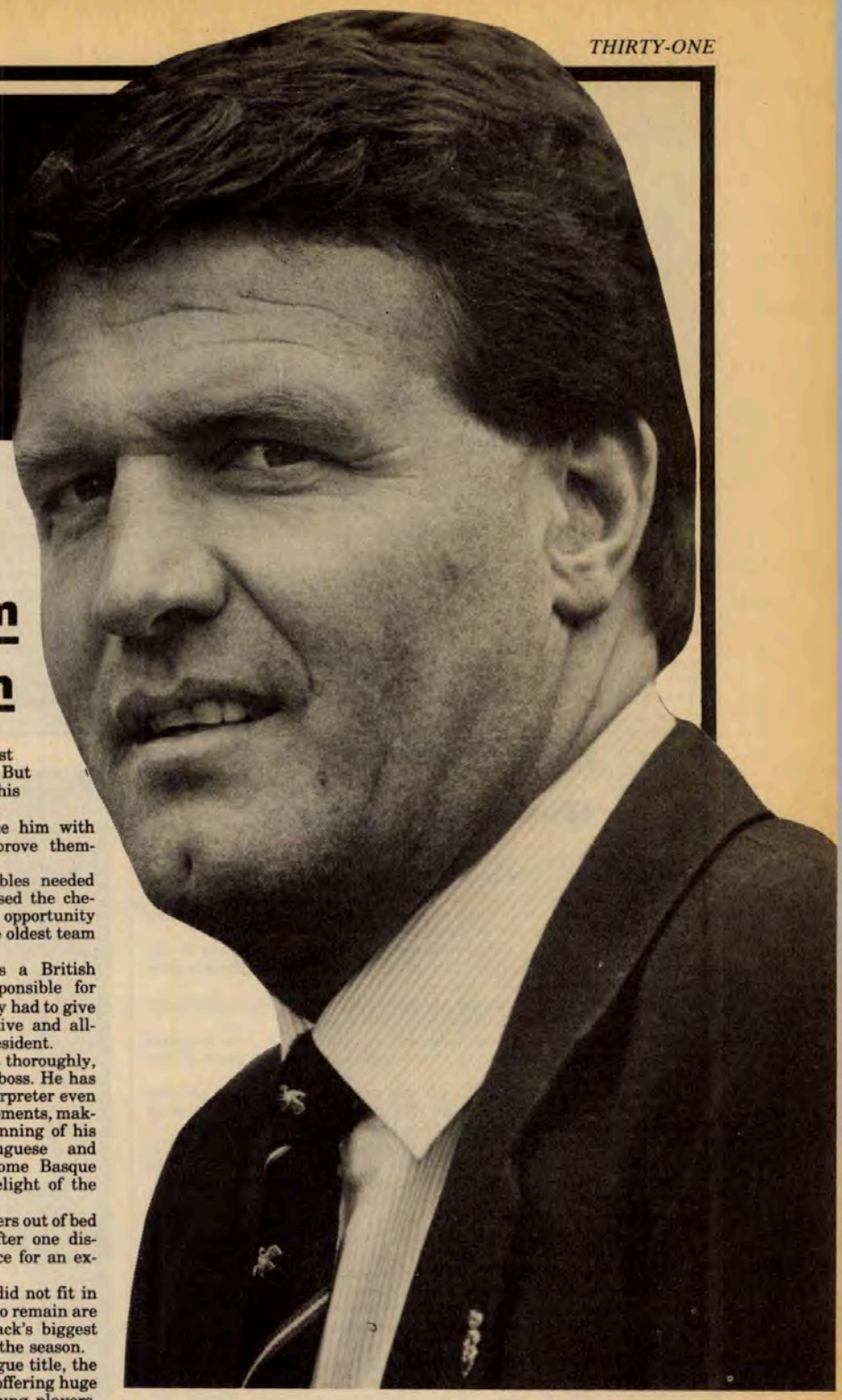
In the meantime, empty hours of tedium after training were filled with M. A. studies in business administration.

On his return to Madrid to play for Atletico, Landaburu started to learn English at the British Council; at the same time he embarked on a parallel career as a consultant in Computer Sciences.

But at 32, married with three chil-

ACK — BOSS!

by Malcolm Davison



and footballing brain have been cleverly exploited by Toshack, making him leader of the team. He plays as libero or in midfield.

Add to these a left back, Lopez Rekarte, whose overlapping runs are reminiscent of Chris Lawler, and you have the most British-styled team in Spain.

Toshack's situation has been in many ways similar to Terry Venables' in Barcelona. Criticised by nationalists angered at now having a Basque manager, Real Sociadad's Cup win last year achieved for him the respite that Barcelona's previous League title earned for Venables.

A poor start this season saw Real Sociedad even nearer the bottom than the Catalonian club, but Real's directors are more patient and far-sighted than Barcelona's and kept faith in the ex-Liverpool idol.

Despite elimination in the second round of the Cup-Winners' Cup that faith has been rewarded with 24 points from Real's last 13 League games, including 4-1 televised humiliations of Athletic in Bilbao and Barcelona in San Sebastian.

The drubbing of Barcelona came after Arconada made two incredible saves from Gary Lineker headers early in the match, and that match perhaps demonstrated why El Tosh is still here and El Tel is not.

Toshack has not only brought in young players but taught the importance of total football and the consequent necessity of peak physical fitness at all levels of the club.

He practised what he preached by letting Lopez Ufarte go at the end of last season to rivals Athletico Madrid.

A charismatic player, capable of amazing runs and a regular goalscorer, Lopez Ufarte had a lot of popular support amongst the "socios" (members). But he was never noted for his work-rate and Toshack knew he could replace him with youngsters keen to prove themselves.

At Barcelona Venables needed instant success and used the cheque book, giving little opportunity to young players in the oldest team in the first division.

He tried to act as a British manager, wholly responsible for team affairs, but finally had to give way to a hyper-sensitive and all-powerful press and president.

Toshack, quietly but thoroughly, has showed he IS the boss. He has made no use of an interpreter even in the most delicate moments, making use from the beginning of his knowledge of Portuguese and rapidly picking up some Basque expressions, to the delight of the locals.

He even got his players out of bed in the early hours after one disappointing performance for an extra training session.

Those players who did not fit in have left, but those who remain are sure to present Toshack's biggest problem at the end of the season.

Win or lose the League title, the big clubs will come in offering huge contracts to Real's young players.

dren, his one great ambition in life remains unfulfilled: to play in the English League.

He says: "English football is totally different tactics.

"There is tremendous pressure on us not to lose. English players have another mentality; they are hard but not dirty. I would love to finish my career in England."

It would, presumably, be a rum affair for fans and players to have a man called Jesus on the teamsheet, but it does have a certain cachet.

Calm, and with a shyness for which Spaniards are not especially famed, Landaburu's restrained brand of football is both tight-fisted and profligate.

He strolls around midfield like a tourist with time to kill, dispensing short passes to his wing-halves.

Then, suddenly, the mould is shattered with a looping 40 yard pass that sends a forward scuttling for goal with the enemy defence flatfooted, wondering where the ball has gone.

But his greatest talent lies in the delicate art of scoring from free kicks. A dead ball on the area brings a sudden stir on the terraces. It was in this way that he scored the only goal in his team's 1-1 home draw with Real Madrid last season.

A foul to the left of the penalty area and the scene was set. The wall was formed. Landaburu stepped back two or three paces, studied the angle like an artisan, and paced slowly forward.

His free kicks are rarely powerful, and this one was typical. It curved gently over the white wall, pierced the angle of the crossbar and post and rolled down the net while a stranded Buyo gazed in astonishment.

This season Atletico has a new coach and a new system. Cesar Luis Menotti has added to the vocabulary of Spanish Football with his 'achique de espacios', (space squeeze). Basically the offside game, Landaburu explains it thus: "When the other team has the ball our defence drops back to attract the forwards. As their midfield pushes the ball through we move forward, leaving their attack offside. The counter tactic is for the opposing wing halves to move up into the attack, but then they leave fewer players in defence. It's different from Holland in 1974. They just moved up to the half-way line when under attack."

Fragile as the system may sound, the talented Real Madrid duo of Butragueno and Hugo Sanchez failed to break it down, even though fortified in the second half by Porto's tormentor, Llorente.

More impressive was the fact that they couldn't even score in the 4-0 humiliation in front of their own fans at the Bernabeu. Until the 10th game of the season Madrid had the extraordinary goal average of 32:2.

Landaburu explained: "Until that game Real Madrid were supposed to be having their best ever season, yet that victory put us only one point behind them.

"And they still have to meet Barcelona and come to the Manzanares. I think we have the chance of overtaking them.'

On the contemporary scourge of hooliganism, Landaburu blames "the presidents who originally encouraged the 'penas radicales', the radical supporters' clubs, to frighten the opposing players and generate atmosphere.

"Now it is out of hand, and I think the police should be much harder. If things continue as they are, it will be a good way to invite people to stay at home."

Gullit goal gives Milan their victory

From JANE NOTTAGE

WE CAME, we saw, we conquered, may well be the motto of AC Milan president Silvio Berlusconi after the Juventus-Milan match which Milan won 1-0.

It's more than 17 years since Milan came to the Communale and won against Juventus, a victory long awaited and made all the sweeter by Ruud Gullit, who scored the only goal and put on a fine display of fluid and imaginative football.

However, Milan are not a one man team. Valuable and indeed decisive contributions were made by captain Franco Baresi, who headed an effort from Juve's Massimo Bonini off the goal line, and youngster Paolo Maldini who at only 19 has already been called up to the national team, where he's reserve for defenders Ferri and Bergomi.

Perhaps the most important aspect of Milan is the entertainment factor, playing an open defensive system the ball is allowed to be played and ability comes through.

'Winter champions'

Juventus had opportunities to score, the most controversial failures being Rush's two missed goals in front of only the goal and Giovanni Galli, Milan's goalkeeper.

However, it wasn't only Rush who missed, Cabrini mistimed a header in a confused performance by Juventus.

Hailed as a midweek hero in Juventus' 1-0 win over Pescara in the Italian Cup, Rush was labelled the villain by the following Sunday after the Milan match.

"That's football," he said after the game. "You can be up in the clouds or down in the doldrums in the space of a few days."

To prove the point he then collected four goals when Juve thrashed Pescara 6-2 in the return leg of the cup-tie to earn a place in the quarter-finals.

In the league, Milan's superb 4-1 win over Napoli could not prevent Maradona's men from taking the title of 'winter champions' a week before the halfway mark of the Italian championship.

Having been trounced by Milan on the Sunday and then Fiorentina (at home!) in the Italian Cup, they showed their true class and thrashed the same Fiorentina 4-0 the following Sunday.

This quickly dispelled all talk of a crisis and technical problems in the Neopolitan camp.

In fact talk of Italy are Napoli's front three Giordano-Careca-Maradona who are proving unbeatable. They've broken all records and proved themselves to be true champions — greatest number of points at the halfway mark (23), best for results at home — seven victories out of seven, best attack (30 goals) and greatest number of victories (10).

Chasing Napoli, along with Milan, are Sampdoria. Their strength lies in attack, with Gianluca Vialli and Roberto Mancini, and in the creative and imaginative midfield who have finally brought some style back to Italian midfield.

Talking of midfield, a team which is painfully lacking in this area are Juventus. Manager Rino Marchesi has tried various combinations. But as one fan put it after the Milan game: "Even Platini with one leg would be better than what we've got!"

Second round

Already there's talk of next season and the names of Francescoli and Schuster have been put forward as possible saviours for 'La Vecchia Signora!' Likely to go is Rush's partner Michael Laudrup who, though undoubtedly talented, does not suit Rush's style or viceversa.

Laudrup has made it clear that if he leaves Juventus he will leave Italy and one of his main choices next would be England.

The second round cup-ties also saw something of a return to the status quo. Napoli recovered a victory away to Fiorentina but Milan went out to Ascoli in a penalty shoot-out after a 1-1 draw on aggregate. There was an upset too for Roma, who went down to bottom-of-the-first division Empoli.

Not a happy time for Roma. In between the cup-ties they managed only a draw at home to Torino who had not won a point in the Olympic stadium for seven years.

Both Roma's foreign players Rudi Völler and Zibi Boniek, have been off-form. Völler has suffered from a persistent back injury which is worrying not only Roma, but West German national boss, Franz Beckenbauer.

VEN

JOSEF VENGLOŠ is back as Czechoslovak national team manager to replace Josef Masopust.

Vengloš, 51, a former Slovan Bratislava defender, has had previous experience in Australia and Portugal and took Czechoslovakia to the 1982 World Cup Finals.

It remains to be seen who will assist him. As was the case in the European Championship qualifying matches Václav Ježek's advice may be sought. For the moment his Sparta side look unlikely to be dislodged from the top of the table when the spring half season begins in March.

One series of matches held over from the autumn has to be fitted in and with some thought, if the Olympic preparations and Vitkovice's European ties with Español Barcelona are not going to throw too heavy a burden on those likely to be involved in League, UEFA Cup and Olympics.

Overall 1987 was a disappointing year for both the international team and clubs, likely qualification for Seoul apart. The international team flattered only to deceive.

The March defeat of the Swiss in an away friendly, the hard won point in Wrexham and the draw in Copenhagen were encouraging but the less than full strength side Masopust deliberately fielded in Finland threw away all the good work of the spring.

BULGARIA: A disappointing year ended with the national team showing a positive balance of five wins from seven internationals but without a ticket for the European finals in West Germany.

On the Olympic front it looks as if all three remaining games will have to be won to pip the Soviet Union who also have three to play. The mid December 3-0 victory in Turkey was encouraging but a win in Moscow at the beginning of the Soviet season will be required.

As expected the Vitosha stopper Nicolai Iliev was voted 'Footballer of the Year' by the sports magazine Start. Iliev received 85 votes, 13 more than Sredet's striker Tanev with no other player in sight. The third ranked, Sirakov, also of Vitosha, was the choice of only 12 journalists.

Peter Beardsley, in sparkling form for Liverpool.

GLOS RETURNS

FROM BOB VAUGHAN

Iliev, 24, would seem to be a certain for the national team for some time with his ideal build. Iliev is a product of the training centre run by Vitosha for whom he played his first match in the senior side six seasons ago. A married man with a three year old daughter, Iliev is a second year student at the Higher Institute of Physical Education which enables him to be virtually a full time footballer.

To date he has been capped 20 times, played in 14 'Under-21' games and was on 29 occasions a member of the 'Under-18's'.

Christmas saw an indoor five-a-side competition involving the four Sofia Premier League sides and two provincial teams, Sliven and Beroe. In the final Vitosha overcame Sliven 6-4 to win the first such event for 24 years. A similar one is planned for 1988, it is hoped with international participation.

EAST GERMANY: The year ended on a note of optimism after the setbacks of the autumn. There is an outside chance of the Olympic team qualifying for Seoul and the World Cup draw suggests a ticket for Italy should not be beyond Bernd Stange's squad's reach. Games with the Austrians, four to date, have all been close and it should be possible to account for Turkey and, again, for Iceland.

In the Cup the draw made in mid-December for the quarter finals in early May pairs Carl-Zeiss Jena, for some time out of Europe, with Dynamo Dresden, Lok receive Chemie Halle, Karl-Marx-Stadt travel to Rostock, last season's losing finalists while BFC Dynamo have a tricky tie with relegated Fortschritt.

The Bischofswerda club are currently fifth in 'Staffel B' of the Liga, the second division, southern section.

Dynamo stumbled last season in the Trade Union sponsored Cup and while finishing autumn champions in December the men from Dimtroffstrasse will not relish a visit to the 'Stadion der Jugend' where 10,000 Saxons will be hoping for a sensation.

It is a long way ahead as the Cup 'rests' for some five months before final rounds are raced through in exactly a month. Lok look a good bet to retain the trophy but René Müller's side will also have sights on the championship. The 'Railwaymen' finished level on 20 points with Dynamo on the last day of the autumn series.

Lok won in Erfurt by the odd goal in three while Dynamo dropped a point in Frankfurt.

POLAND: A player now performing in West Germany for Bochum has been chosen as Footballer of the Year. Awdrzej Iwan, formerly of Górnik Zabrze, outpointed Marek Lesniak (Pogon Szczecin), FC Porto's goalkeeper Jozef Mlynarczik and this autumn's top shot Ryszard Cyron, a former colleague. Iwan The Terrible began his career with a tiny club, Wanda, moved to Wisla Kraków before spending his best three years at Górnik where he won two championships. He has been capped 29 times and scored 90 goals in the top division and 11 for the national team.

RUMANIA: Steaua's Gheorghe Hagi was chosen as Footballer of the Year. Managers, top officials and journalists are polled and the schemer came out at the head of all three lists gaining a total of 277 points, nearly 90 more than Belodedici, over 100 more than Cámätaru.

LIVERPOOL – NO BETS!

by DERICK ALLSOP

THE English championship race turned the corner into 1988 already declared a no-contest by the men who make it their business to know these things.

Bookmakers stopped taking bets on Liverpool for the title when Kenny Dalglish's side established a club record of 24 unbeaten First division matches and put themselves on course for the biggest margin of success in a century of League competition.

The latest Anfield landmark was reached with a 3-0 victory at Oxford on Boxing Day. They followed up with two 4-0 home wins against Newcastle and Coventry, and completed the holiday programme a staggering 13 points clear of closest rivals Nottingham Forest.

The bookies switched their attention to the scrap for second place, where Forest were challenged by Arsenal, Manchester United and reigning champions Everton. Those four clubs stumbled over each other in the chase. Brian Clough's young Forest won at Arsenal, but lost at home to Newcastle and were flattered by the scoreline in a 1-0 defeat at Everton.

That was a victory Everton desperately needed after losing at Sheffield Wednesday and Manchester United. But then United had lost at Newcastle and were held to a 0-0 home draw by struggling Charlton.

Arsenal had an even more miserable time and were one of the victims of Wimbledon's spectacular sweep through the holiday fixtures and into that battle for the runner-up spot. They wound up their triumphant week with a 5-2 thrashing of Oxford away from home.

All gripping stuff, and up and down the country the turnstiles were clicking in huge crowds. This was, however, one big sideshow. Liverpool were simply on a different stage.

United manager Alex Ferguson summed up the predicament of the trailing pack when he said: "We have to be optimistic and believe Liverpool might start losing, but in reality they would now have to throw it away."

At the time, that seemed most unlikely. If anything, Liverpool's football was even more forceful and dominant than before. Many observers rated this side the finest to emerge from Anfield. The First Division's top scorer John Aldridge claimed his 19th goal of the season in Liverpool's 4-0 destruction of FA Cup holders Coventry and England striker Peter Beardsley hit two to remove any nagging doubts about his role in the team.

That took Liverpool's tally to 56 points and 55 goals in 22 matches, with only 11 goals conceded. Coventry boss John Sillett said: "Nobody can touch them in the Championship. They are just superb."

So much so that player-manager Kenny Dalglish has confined his activities to management this season. He concedes he's not good enough to make the team. The 36-year-old Scot said: "I would like to have played in the team but I have never been able to get in. It's as simple as that."

While Dalglish has spent lavishly to reinforce his squad, Clough has worked with more modest resources but rates his current young team as good as any he has created. Alongside his own son Nigel, who scored a four-minute hat-trick against Queen's Park Rangers, and England midfield player Neil Webb, he has introduced the likes of Tommy Gaynor, Lee Glover, Terry Wilson and Steve Chettle.

Clough said: "I have had some genuine teams in my time but I can't think that any of them compare with this one. I'm sure I've dropped on some of the nicest lads to come into football in a long time.

"Their honesty and commitment come through again and again, and the thing about them is that some are so young they don't know how else to be."

One of the latest youngsters in Clough's sights is 15-year-old Darren Ferguson — son of the United manager. Rangers and Aberdeen have also attempted to sign the midfield prospect, while Ferguson senior has been urged by his staff to secure the lad, who has appeared in the Old Trafford 'B' team, for United.

But Ferguson is conscious of the possible problems that could generate. He said: "There's no doubt Darren has ability, as does his twin brother Jason. It's a difficult one for me. I could even be too hard on him. It's something we still have to work out and there is no immediate hurry. The real problem doesn't arise until around 18 and 19, when he could get into the League team."

Ferguson has been busy strengthening his defence. He finally signed Steve Bruce from Norwich for £825,000 and then, with Paul McGrath still struggling to recover from a knee injury, made a bid for Aberdeen's Alex McLeish — only to discover the Scot, too, was injured.

Former England defender Terry Fenwick left Queen's Park Rangers to rejoin Terry Venables at Tottenham. Venables beat off competition from Arsenal to clinch the £550,000 deal. Venables had an uncomfortable start at White Hart Lane but a win at Derby pumped a little optimism back into the club. With Chris Waddle restored to fitness and form, Spurs had holiday successes at home to West Ham and Watford.

Watford followed up with a 1-0 home defeat against Manchester United that left them pinned to the foot of the First Division. These are depressing times for English football's much acclaimed 'family club.'

Manager Graham Taylor had left for Aston Villa and chairman Elton John wanted to sell his controlling share. Mood and fortunes have changed, and Taylor's successor, Dave Bassett, has himself been succeeded by Steve Harrison, formerly Taylor's No 2.

And Elton has had a change of heart and taken down the 'for sale' signs.

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SOUTH AMERICAN TITLES TOTALS

BRAZIL (since 1971)

National championship: 4 — Flamengo (Rio); 3 — Internacional (Porto Alegre); 2 — Palmeiras (Sao Paulo), Sao Paulo FC; 1 — Atletico Mineiro (Minas Gerais), Vasco de Gama (Rio), Guarani de Campiñas (Sao Paulo), Gremio (Porto Alegre), Fluminese (Rio), Atletico Curitiba (Parana).

COLOMBIA (since 1948)

Profesional League: 12 — Millionarios (Bogota); 6 — Independiente Santa Fe (Bogota), America (Cali); 5 — Deportivo Cali; 4 — Atletico Nacional (Medellin); 2 — Independiente Medellin, Atletico Junior (Barranquilla); 1 — Deportes Caldas, Atletico Quindio, Union Magdalena (Santa Marta).

URUGUAY (since 1932)

First Division: 29 — Peñarol; 23 — Nacional; 2 — Defensor; 1 — Central Español.

FLA FOR

from ERIC WEIL

FLAMENGO beat Internacional of Porto Alegre 1-0 in the second leg of the Brazilian national championship final in front of 100,000 at Maracana in Rio de Janeiro to clinch the title for a record fourth time.

Their previous wins came in 1975, 1976 and 1979 while Internacional had also won it three times (1980, 1982 and 1983) so that the two teams, who had drawn the first leg 1-1, were both playing to establish a record.

The match, played in constant rain, was not of a high standard but highly exciting. Centre-forward Bebeto, one of the country's leading strikers at 23, scored the only goal after 16 minutes of the first half in which Flamengo were clearly on top.

Internacional pressed more in the second half, but the best goal chances still fell to Flamengo who had 34-year-old midfielder Zico playing not fully fit and slow, being replaced 11 minutes from the end.

Flamengo: Ze Carlos, Jorginho, Leandro, Edinho, Leonardo, Andrade, Ailton, Zico (Flavio), Renato, Bebeto, Zinho.

Internacional: Taffarel, Luis Carlos, Aloisio, Nene, Paulo Roberto, Beto, Norberto, Luis Fernando, Balalo, Heider-Manu, Amarildo, Brittes.

Flamengo played the fluid attacking soccer which took them to their last national title, the Libertadores Cup and then the World Club title seven years ago . . . the kind which brings so many fans to make them the most popular club in Brazil.

The crowd would have been far larger if it had not been for the rain, but all Flamengo's 22 fan clubs were represented and it was calculated they brought 15 tins of shredded paper, 10 tons of toilet rolls, 300 boxes of fireworks and 100 smoke bombs . . . although Roberto Pinho, leader of the largest club which has some 21,000 members and is called "Red and Black Country" (because of the club's colours), said that people exaggerated and they had brought only 500 toilet rolls . . .

The "Super League" formed by 16 of the major clubs in opposition to the Brazilian FA, was eventually recognised as the national championship in spite of strong opposition from the many smaller clubs which usually also took part in the competition.

It was played in two rounds with the clubs split into two sections of eight each with group winners going into the semi-finals. Atletico Mineiro and Internacional won their groups in the first round.

Atletico were successful again in the second round which qualified runners-up Flamengo for the last four while Cruzeiro won the other group leaving their usually strong Sao Paulo clubs out in the cold.

Atletico Mineiro, now coached by former Brazilian national team coach Tele Santana, had gone through the entire tournament undefeated, but in the semi-finals they lost 1-0 to Flamengo in Rio in front of 118,000 spectators at the Maracana — Bebeto scoring the only goal 13 minutes from time — and then 3-2 at home in Belo Horizinte.

Zico and Bebeto gave Flamengo a good start with first half goals. Then the game was suspended for 10 minutes when Atletico defender Paulo Roberto was sent off for a foul on Zico and home fans broke onto the pitch to attack the Flamengo players.

Flamengo did not keep up the good work in the second half and Atletico equalised before Renato took the ball from midfield to score Flamengo's winner.

Internacional meanwhile drew 0-0 at home with Cruzeiro and won 1-0 away in extra time to reach the final. In the first leg of the final Bebeto put Flamengo ahead after half an hour and Amarildo equalised two minutes later.

The second division title remained unresolved and could have established a penalty record.

Guarani won the first leg 2-0 and Sport FC the second 3-0, but as only results and not goal aggregate counts in Brazilian soccer, 30 minutes extra time was played with no score.

Then came the penalty shoot-out. The score was 11-11, when they decided to call it a day and let the FA resolve the issue some other way.

ARGENTINA: River Plate and Boca Juniors, leading title winners and traditional rivals of Argentine soccer, met for the 137th time in league matches in the National A Division and home team River Plate broke the tie by winning for the 47th time . . . in dramatic fashion. (Boca Juniors have 46 wins and 38 games were drawn).

Omar Palma, one of the best ball players in the league who joined River Plate from champions Rosario Central this season, sent a penalty over the bar after four minutes, then saw his team go 2-0 down after 51 minutes before he made up for his miss by scoring the winner with three minutes to go.

But it wasn't over. Boca Juniors were awarded a penalty as time was running out and regular kicker Comas shot it over the bar. It was the last shot of the game.

The season's biggest crowd (among low attendances) of 60,000 saw the game and River fans surrounding the Boca team bus would not let the players get off for 15 minutes after they arrived at the stadium. When they did, with police help, they were spat at.

The first half of the division finished just before Christmas — as the tournament went into a five-week recess — with Racing Club Avellaneda and Newell's Old Boys of Rosario sharing the lead while Deportivo Español, who had remained unbeaten for the first 18 games before surprisingly losing their last to lowly Pletense were a point behind.

Fight

Attack-minded teams are making the running in the close championship fight and there is no better example than joint leaders Racing and Newell's.

Racing, leaders from the start (except for a couple of weeks), came closer to the old five-man attack than any other team has done for a long time with three constant attackers — two on the wings — and two attacking halves with former Uruguayan international Rubén Paz outstanding.

Only seldom did they abandon these tactics to rely on the safe goalkeeping of former World Cup international Ubaldo Fillol and new international defender — and one of the revelations of the season at 19 — Nestor Fabbri.

Rosario Central, the defending champions, continue to play good soccer, but continual financial worries — players not getting paid — have hurt their performances and they are in eighth place, six points from the top.

Defensive-minded teams are generally in the bottom half of the table together with popular Boca Juniors who top the gate takings but whose team continues in disarray.

They reached the half-way stage

MENGO'S TITLE FOURTH TIME

winless in five games and sacked their second coach this season, Juan Carlos Lorenzo.

At press-time they signed Omar Pastoriza who did not want to renew his contract with Independiente while the latter club engaged Jorge Solari who took Newell's Old Boys to second place last season but then left of his own accord (under pressure from local hooligan fan groups).

Pastoriza was actually Boca's fourth coach of the year. They started 1987 under Cesar Menotti who decided to leave the country at the end of the 1986-87 season and is now with Atletico Madrid.

At the half-way stage of the 1987-88 season the average number of goals per game in 190 games was 2.2, the most frequent results being 1-1 (37 times), 1-0 (34) and 0-0 (29). There were 101 players sent off with River Plate leading the way with 10 and 62 penalties awarded, of which 41 were scored and 15 saved.

COLOMBIA: The close final round of the Colombian professional league ended with Millionarios of Bogotá beating Atletico Junior of Barranquilla 1-0 on the final day to win their 12th title since the league started in 1948, but their first in nine years to end the five-year reign as champions of Cali's America.

The latter, however, managed to take second place and qualify for the Libertadores Cup for the sixth year running by beating Nacional of Medellín — a team composed entirely of Colombian-born players with whom they had been sharing second place — 1-0 in a close match in which America's Argentine goalkeeper, Falcioni, saved two penalties.

After that match, America's coach, Gabriel Ochoa Uribe, who had taken the club to all their six titles they have won so far, offered his resignation. He had been with the club since 1979.

Chilean striker Jorge Aravena of Deportivo Cali finished as the season's top scorer with 23 goals followed by team mate Armando Osman with 21, but the club finished low down in the final round standings as a result of several of their players — including one of South America's top stars, Carlos Valderrama — being suspended by the club committee for disciplinary reasons.

There was more upset for America when FIFA ordered them to let Paraguayan international Roberto Cabañas go to French club Brest in one of the major transfer scandals of recent times.

America president Juan José Bellini said that his signature and club stamp on the transfer documents were forged and that the club had not received a cent. Brest say they paid an Argentine players agent, Marcelo Open, 300,000 dollars.

Open, a fugitive from justice (accused of forgery) was reported to have contacted Colombian newspapers from abroad — he would not say where he was — accusing Bellini of starting the whole scandal because he could not get a personal 50,000 dollar commission out of the transfer.

The Colombian professional league will have one more club next season (15) — Sporting of Barranquilla whose return to the top division after 35 years was accepted after they won the second division's north zone for the last four years. Sporting's colours are the same as those of famed Uruguayan club Peñarol — black and yellow.

URUGUAY: For only the third time since professional soccer started in Uruguay in 1932, a small club, Defensor, won the first division title in season 1987.

Defensor had already won it in 1976 while central Español took it in 1984, but all other championships went to Peñarol (29 times) and Nacional (23).

Defensor striker Gerardo Miranda topped the scorers table with 13 goals followed by Adolfo Baran (Bella Vista) with 12. Defensor had the best defence with only 18 goals against in 24 games although they are not a defensive team.

Nacional were the highest scorers with 40 goals, while defending champions Peñarol, more interested in winning the Libertadores Cup this season and playing for the World Club championship — which they lost 2-1 to Portugal's Porto — finished halfway down the table.

As the season closed they also lost their coach, Washington Tabares, who went to Deportivo Cali of Colombia. One of the candidates to replace him was their former international striker, Fernando Morena who coached little River Plate into joint third place this season.

Defensor had made sure of the title with two games to go and finished three points ahead of Nacional. These two clubs plus Bella Vista, River Plate, Wanderers and Progreso take part in a six-team play-off, the "Luigilla", to pick Uruguay's two representatives for the next Libertadores Cup.

The teams obtaining most points in Uruguay's two championships qualify for the "Luigilla", but Peñarol are not participating because as cup holders they automatically qualify for the next tournament.

LEANDRO . . . former Brazil World Cup full-back now the key man in central defence for new national champions Flamengo.

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GUADALAJARA STAY IN FRONT

MEXICAN first division champions, Guadalajara and the two university clubs from the city are heading the table as the season nears the half-way stage.

Universidad de Guadalajara have the best record of the 20 clubs in the first division with 10 wins, three draws and three defeats after staying unbeaten in their first 13 games. They top group 2 in which they are followed two points behind by Universidad Autonoma Guadalajara with an 8-5-3 record. Guadalajara have a point fewer (8-4-4) as joint group one leaders. Rarely have three clubs from one town done so well.

The top two of each five-club group qualify for the championship's quarter-finals.

● IN HONDURAS, Olimpia won the first division title for the ninth time since the league was started in 1965 when they beat Maraton 1-0 in the away leg of their final in San Pedro Sula. The first leg was drawn 0-0 in Tegucigalpa. Olimpia, the country's most popular team, are also current Central American zone club champions, but failed to win the CONCACAF club champions trophy in the play-offs last year. Olimpia lines up three foreign players — Uruguayans Daniel Viera and Jose Figueroa and Brazilian Edwardo Santana.

● IN GUATEMALA, the army-sponsored Aurora won the final round of the first division forcing a play-off with second-placed Municipal who had won the regular season championship.

Financial crisis — Municipal expelled

● *Continued from previous page*

If Defensor, as first division champions, does not qualify in the top two places they will have the right to play off for entry into the Libertadores Cup against the second-placed team in the "Luigilla".

Nacional, one of Uruguay's two major clubs, came up strongly in the last weeks of the championship since Roberto Fleitas (under whom Uruguay retained the South American Championship last July) took over. He was Nacional's third coach of the season steering them up to second place from the middle of the table playing an attractive brand of attacking soccer.

Against Peñarol they drew 1-1 in spite of having a man sent off after only 10 minutes.

BOLIVIA: Municipal were expelled from the first division due to financial problems and being unable to pay their players, who refused to turn out.

On several occasions they lined up with less than eleven . . . unique in a professional league.

Bolivar top the table by a point from Blooming and Petrolero in the league which has now been reduced to 14 clubs.

CHILE: Universidad Catolica continue to run away with the first division championship.

They have only lost once in 20 games and have an eight-point lead over champions Colo Colo.

The recent clash between the two drew 70,000 spectators to Santiago's national stadium and ended in a 1-1 draw after a good, fast and even match.

Catolica, with six games to go, needed only four more points to win the title.

ECUADOR: 1986 champions Nacional of Quito failed to qualify for the four-team final round.

Barcelona (of Guayaquil) and Deportivo Quito started with one bonus point each for topping the two qualifying sections of the second stage of the first division championship — and Barcelona then won the title for the ninth time by finishing two points ahead of Filanbanco.

Barcelona, coached by Uruguay's Roque Maspoli, thus won both stages of the championship playing a total of 50 matches during the season of which they won 28, drew 11 and lost 11. Runners-up Filanbanco will represent Ecuador in the next Libertadores Cup for the first time together with veteran cup fighters Barcelona.

PARAGUAY: Olimpia won the five-team final round to become vice-champions.

They qualified for the next Libertadores Cup together with Cerro Porteño who were declared champions after winning all three rounds of the season's regular first division without the need to take part in a final roun#.

The country's big clubs are urging a reorganisation of the championship to create more interest with the introduction of a national league apart from the first division.

Olimpia also won the first "Integration" tournament — with clubs from the provinces — by beating a club with the same name from Italy 1-0 in the home leg in Asunción after drawing the away leg 1-1.

PERU: Championship leaders Alianza Lima, whose team was wiped out in an air crash on December 8, received three players on loan for 90 days from Chilean champions Colo Colo.

They are Jose Letelier (an international), Parkos Quiroz and Rene Pinto.

ARGENTINA'S Jorge Valdano — who can't play for Real Madrid in Spain because he is a 'surplus' foreigner — in action for Argentina against West Germany in Buenos Aires.

COLOMBIAN TOP

COLOMBIAN mid-fielder Carlos Valderrama, of Deportivo Cali, came out top of the annual poll organised by the Caracas newspaper *El Mundo* to find the top Latin-American footballer.

It is the first time that top place goes to a Colombian in the poll for which votes come from leading soccer writers from all over South America.

Valderrama got 54 points followed by Paraguayan international Roberto Cabañas (who also played in Colombia this season for America de Cali) with 35.

Third place went to Uruguayan international Antonio Alzamendi (who plays for River Plate in Argentina) with 34, fourth to Uruguay's Diego Aguirre (Peñarol) with 20 and fifth to Chilean international goalkeeper Roberto Rojas with 17.

Only a couple of days later, however, Valderrama and two other Deportivo Cali team-mates were suspended by their club for disciplinary reasons.

● A BRAZILIAN television advertising firm may help Venezuela to prepare for the next World Cup.

Venezuelan FA officials said they had received a financial offer from a Brazilian firm of $300,000 in exchange for TV rights.

The official said the firm would also supply the national team coach who could be Brazil's Didi.

● THERE ARE financial problems in organising this year's South American Junior Championship which serves as a qualifier for the next World Cup of this under-21 category.

The tournament had been scheduled to take place in Paraguay who has had to back down due to financial problems. Bolivia accepted to take over, calculating it would cost them $300,000 to organise, but now they are having second thoughts too. Argentina has been mentioned as a possible venue.

Meanwhile the Chilean FA announced that last year's World Youth Cup finals held there left a profit of $100,000.

A spokesman said that the event cost $4m to stage of which $3m went on improvements to stadium and other installations.

● JOAE HAVELANGE, president of the International Football Federation (FIFA), said in a lengthy interview recently that he would accept the presidency again if everybody wants him in 1990.

Havelange, who is 71, and was first elected in 1974 and then re-elected three times said, however, he would not stand for re-election if there was another candidate because that would mean that some countries thought he had not done a good job.

● PROTESTS from thousands of fans and the press have forced the Brazilian FA to cancel an $80,000 contract with the Coco Cola to advertise on the national team shirts.

The Coca Cola shirts were worn by the Brazilian team in December when they beat Chile 2-1 in a friendly and were going to be used again a few days later when the national team faced West Germany ... but waves of protest from all sides forced Coca Cola and the Brazilian FA to back down.

One paper said it was like selling advertising space on the national flag. The local director of the soft drinks firm said: "It was a sad marketing error."

● THE FIRST South American Super Cup between winners of the Libertadores Cup will start on February 10 according to arrangements made by the South American Football Confederation.

The knock-out competition — to which America de Cali (Colombia) were specially invited for having reached the last three Libertadores Cup finals although never winning the trophy (and to make up an even number) — will be played with home and away legs with first-round dates being as follows:

Independiente (Argentina) v Cruzeiro (Brazil) on February 10 and 25; Racing Avellaneda (Argentina) v Santos (Brazil) on February 24 and March 3; Boca Juniors (Argentina) v Gremio (Brazil) on March 2 and 16; River Plate (Argentina) v Olimpia (Paraguay) on April 13 and 20; Estudiantes de La Plata (Argentina) v Flamengo (Brazil) on March 30 and April 5; Argentinos Juniors (Argentina) v Peñarol (Uruguay) on April 6 and 14; Nacional (Uruguay) v America de Cali (Colombia) to be confirmed.

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS. . . INTERNATIONAL RESULTS. . .

DECEMBER 20

Valletta — Euro gp 2
Malta 0
Portugal 1 (Frederico 74)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Sorstinger (Sus)

Malta: Cluett — E. Camileri, J. Camileri, Laferla, Azzopardi — Buttigieg, Busuttil, Vella, Gregory — Carabotto, Mizzi (Degiorgio 70).

Portugal: Jesus — Costeado, Miguel, Frederico, Fernando Mendes — Dito, Gilberto (Aparicio 46), Rui Barros, Nascimento — Adao, Coelho (Carvalho 83).

THE very last match of the European qualifiers. Portugal scraped victory thanks to some good saves by Jesus and then a scrambled goal by Frederico when Malta failed to clear a corner.

JANUARY 13

Oporto — Supercup second leg
FC Porto 1 (Sousa 70)
Ajax Amsterdam 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Schmidhubner (WG)
Porto 2-0 on agg

Porto: Mlynarczyk — Joao Pinto, Lima Pereira, Geraldao, Inacio — Bandeirinha (Semedo 83), Jaime Magalhaes, Rui Barros, Sousa, Andre — Gomes (Jorge Placido 69).

Ajax: Menzo — Blind, Larsson, Wouters, Hesp — Van't Schip, A. Muhren, Winter — Bergkamp (Meijer 80), Bosman, Rob Witschge (Roy 64).

PORTO'S completion of victory in the Supercup was hardly surprising given that Ajax had to go into action under the command of three-man team management committee. This comprised Barry Hulshoff, Spitz Kohn and Bobby Harms and all because of Johan Cruyff's walk-out the previous Monday. They continued to encourage youngsters, however, in the Cruyff tradition. On this occasion that meant providing a full match debut for left back Ruud Hesp, who had played only 40 minutes' senior football before this Supercup tie — and who had been a ballboy at the first leg. Sousa scored the only goal with a fine left-foot drive in the 70th minute and Ajax, to compound their upset, had to play out the last few minutes of the game without new Swedish signing Peter Larsson, who suffered a disclocated shoulder.

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW
Amended line-up:

Nov 10 — Limassol — Euro gp 5
Cyprus 0
Poland 1 (Lesniak 74)

Poland: Wandzik — Prusik, Krol, Wdowczyk, Wenclewski, Rudy, Tarasiewicz, Urbán (K. Warzycha 58), Araszkiewicz (R. Warzycha 46), Dziekanowski, Lesniak.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Sofia — Olympic qual
Bulgaria 4 (Stoev 12, 24, Bonchev 68, Penev 71)
Norway 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 1,200. **Ref:** Kapsos (Cyp)

Norway: By Rise — Hugo Hansen, Sollied, Erland Johnsen, Halle, Gulbrandsen (Skammelsrud 82), Meinseth (Fjortoft 46), Hellvik, Loken, Fjaerestad, Bachke.

THE mixture as before: an Olympic qualifier which means no full caps for the Bulgarians but is counted as a full international by the Norwegians. If it had not been for the excellent work of keeper Ole By Rise the Norwegians would have lost even more heavily.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Ankara — Olympic qual
Turkey 0
Norway 0
Att: 11,000. **Ref:** Ben Itzhak (Isr)

Turkey: Fatih — Ismail, Gökhan, Yasar, Kadir, Ugur, Savas, Ziya, Erdi (Fikret 61), Feyzullah (Oguz 82), Kayhan.

Norway: By Rise — Engerbakk, Sollied, Johnsen, Halle, Loken (Hugo Hansen 76), Rekdal, Gulbrandsen, Hellvik, Fjortoft, Fjaerestad (Meinseth 82).

BY RISE was again the star for the Norwegians, saving a penalty from Savas. Once again, a full international for Norway, but not for Turkey.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

Tel-Aviv — intl friendly
Israel 1 (Obeniz)
Malta 1 (Mizzi)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 2,500

ISRAEL'S purpose was to prepare for the fullscale visit of Switzerland in two weeks' time.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

Buenos Aires — intl friendly
Argentina 1 (Burruchaga 55)
West Germany 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Coelho (Brz)

Argentina: Pumpido — Cuciuffo, Brown, Ruggeri, Fabbri — Sensini, Batista, Burruchaga (Siviski 75) — Rodriguez (Troglio 65), Maradona, Valdano (Dertycia 88).

W. Germany: Illgner — Reuter (Foda 65), Herget, Kohler, Pflügler — Rolff, Matthäus, Schwabl (Hochstätter 73), Thon — Ordenewitz, Klinsmann.

THE "World Cup Final Repeat" found West Germany in a more confused state than Argentina. Carlos Bilardo could still boast a majority of Mexico winners in his line-up, even if Jorge Valdano was playing his first game in nine months after recovering from hepatitis. West German boss Franz Beckenbauer again was forced to look to his youngsters — and they could not really be said to have let him down in an intimidating atmosphere in the Velez Sarsfield stadium. The match was not exactly bristling with chances. Klinsmann hit a post in the first half and Rodriguez wasted an opening with only Illgner to beat. So it was not until the 55th minute that Jorge Burruchaga, newly recovered from a serious knee injury, shot beneath Illgner after Maradona had escaped on the left.

Rhodes — Euro chp gp 5
Greece 0
Holland 3 (R. Koeman 19, Gillhaus 75, 81)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 7,000.

Greece: Michail — Georchamlis, Hatsiathansiou, Kalitzakis (Pachaturides 32), Mitsibonas, Vakalopulos, Ziogas, Kanaras, Pavlos, Papaioannou (Mavromatis 12), Vlachos, Samaras.

Holland: Van Breukelen — Lankhaar, Van Tiggelen, R. Koeman, Troost (Gillhaus 46), Van Erle, Winter, Kruezen, Vanenburg, Bosman, Van't Schip.

MEANINGLESS match since Holland had already qualified for the finals. So the grumpy Greeks fielded virtually a B team as a gesture of protest at the European federation's failure to maintain their original Holland v Cyprus decision — which would, of course, have put Greece on the brink of a place in the finals. Holland also fielded a number of reserves and went ahead in the 19th minute through Ronald Koeman. In the last 15 minutes substitute Hans Gillhaus added two more. The match was switched to Rhodes to try to rule out hooligan problems — with success.

Tel-Avid — intl friendly
Israel 0
Switzerland 2 (B. Sutter 37, Bonvin 61)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Lo Bello (It)

Israel: Fabian — Davidi, Parselani, Shimonov, Klinger — Ovadia, Avi Cohen, Malmilian (Ivanir 46), Sinai — Briyalovsky, Barel (Menachem 26).

Switzerland: Brunner — Geiger — Weber, Schällibaum — Marini (Hertig 35), Koller (Andermatt 62), Hermann, Bickel (Bamert 79) — B. Sutter, Zwicker, Bonvin.

SWISS manager Daniel Jeandupeux was thrilled with the style of his men's victory. He believed the integrated teamwork on display was Switzerland's best during his reign. Yet Switzerland created only two chances in the first half — one of which was converted in stunning fashion by Beat Sutter. Cristophe Bonvin scored No 2 under the watchful eyes of France manager Henri Michel. Heinz Hermann might have scored a third in the 86th minute, but was foiled by a post.

Izmir — Euro chp gp 4
Turkey 2 (Yusuf 68, Feyyaz 73)
Yugoslavia 3 (Radanovic 5, Katanec 40, Hadzibegic 54 pen)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Galler (Swz)

Turkey: Okan — Riza, Gökhan, Yusuf, Erhan, Unal, Ugur (Ali 46), Erdal (Savas 40), Feyyaz, Tanju, Iskender.

Yugoslavia: Radaca — D. Brnovic, Krivokapic, Katanec, Hadzibegic, Radanovic, Smajic (Janevski 75), Savicevic, Jakovljevic, Bazdarevic, Skoro (P. Juric 80).

THE final match in England's group and, oddly, of more interest to Scotland than to England — since England were already sure of their European finals place and Yugoslavia are among Scotland's World Cup qualifying rivals. Yugoslavia swept into a two-goal lead by the interval. Hadzibegic made it 3-0 from a penalty after a foul by goalkeeper Okan. But then Turkey, for almost the first time in the group, produced some spirited attacking play. Yusuf scored a fine solo goal and Feyyaz grabbed another. Despite an exciting finish, the Turks could not quite manage to complete their comeback with an equaliser.

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP – Final first round tables

Group 1. — Nov 17 (Jerez):
Spain 3 (Loren 21, Rafa Paz 36, 67)
Albania 0

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SPAIN	6	4	2	0	9	1	10
Rumania	6	3	0	3	7	7	6
Austria	6	2	2	2	5	7	6
Albania	6	0	2	4	4	10	2

Group 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ITALY	6	3	3	0	14	4	9
Sweden	6	1	4	1	6	6	6
Switzerland	6	1	3	2	4	7	5
Portugal	6	2	0	4	8	15	4

Group 3	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FRANCE	6	3	2	1	8	6	8
East Germany	6	2	3	1	10	6	7
Soviet Union	6	3	0	3	7	9	6
Norway	6	0	3	3	3	7	3

Group 4. — Dec 15 (Izmir):
Turkey 3 (Recep 25, Durmus 30, Yucel 65)
Yugoslavia 2 (Jaksuc 7, Arsanovic 51).

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ENGLAND	4	1	3	0	7	3	5
Turkey	4	1	2	1	4	6	4
Yugoslavia	4	1	1	2	7	9	3

Group 5	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
GREECE	6	4	1	1	15	5	9
Hungary	6	3	1	2	12	7	7
Poland	6	3	0	3	5	6	6
Cyprus	6	1	0	5	4	18	2

Group 6	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	6	3	2	1	14	8	8
Denmark	6	2	2	2	7	6	6
Finland	6	2	1	3	8	11	5
Iceland	6	1	3	2	9	13	5

Group 7	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SCOTLAND	4	3	1	0	7	2	7
Rep. Ireland	4	1	1	2	5	6	3
Belgium	4	0	2	2	0	4	2

Group 8. — Dec 15:
Holland 4 (Willems 28, 53, Plomp 73 pen, Viskal 80)
Bulgaria 3 (Stoichkov 1, 62 pen, Penev 22).

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
HOLLAND	6	5	0	1	12	5	10
Bulgaria	6	4	0	2	8	7	8
West Germany	6	3	0	3	12	9	6
Luxembourg	6	0	0	6	2	13	0

Quarter-final draw: France v Italy; Spain v Holland; Scotland v England; Greece v Czechoslovakia. Semi-finals: France or Italy v Scotland or England; Greece or Czechoslovakia v Spain or Holland. In the two-leg final the first leg to be hosted by the winners of the Greece/Czech/Spain/Holland section.

BALKAN CUP. — Group 1; Arges, Luftetari, PAOK, Slavia Sofia. Group 2: Sliven, Samsunspor, Iraklis. Group 3: Eskisehirspor, Dinamo Tirana, Corvinul Hunedoara. Results so far: Luftetari-Slavia 2-0; PAOK-Arges 2-0; Samsunspor-Sliven 3-2; Dinamo-Eskisehirspor 3-1; Arges-Luftetari 2-0; Slavia-PAOK 4-0; Corvinul-Dinamo 4-0; Arges-Slavia 2-0; Eskisehirspor-Corvinul 2-2; Sliven-Iraklis 4-0; Sliven-Samsunspor 7-0.

SOUTH AMERICA

SENIORS (over 34) CHAMPIONSHIP (in Maldonaldo, Uruguay, — Section A: Chile 2, Paraguay 1; Paraguay 3, Brazil 2; Chile 1, Brazil 1. Points: Chile 3; Paraguay 2; Brazil 1. Section B: Argentina 2, Uruguay 1; Argentina 1, Peru 0; Uruguay 1, Peru, 1. Points: Argentina 4, Uruguay 1, Peru, 1.

Third-place match: Paraguay 3, Peru 0.

Final: Argentina 0, Chile 0 (2-1 on pens).

Argentina: Barisio — Rogel, Squeo, Ribolzi, Albrecht, Galletti, Della Savia, Onega, Santamaria, Sanabria, Outes.

Chile: Neff — Nachuca, Soto, C. Valenzuela, Jossman, Jalina, Cabajan, Alarcon, Peixoto, Torres, Veliz.

Note: Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Peru qualify for 1988 seniors.

OTHER MATCHES

Nov 18. – Mexico XI 2, Newell's Old Boys 1 (in San Jose, California).

ARGENTINA

National A Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newell's Old Boys	19	11	5	3	36	12	27
Racing Club	19	9	9	1	31	15	27
Deportivo Español	19	8	10	1	32	20	26
San Lorenzo	19	8	9	2	21	10	25
Gimn Y Esgr La P	19	6	11	2	26	17	23
Argentinos Juniors	19	8	7	4	28	20	23
River Plate	19	8	7	4	24	17	23
Rosario Central	19	6	9	4	28	20	21
Ferro Carril Ceste	19	5	10	4	18	18	20
Independiente	19	6	8	5	20	21	20
Velez Sarsfield	19	6	7	6	21	22	19
Deportivo Armenio	19	5	9	5	16	17	19
Estudaintes La Plata	19	4	10	5	18	19	18
Platense	19	4	8	7	22	28	16
Tallerers Córdoba	19	2	10	7	19	31	14
Instituto Córdoba	19	4	6	9	18	34	14
Boca Juniors	19	4	4	11	18	35	12
Union Sante Fe	19	3	5	11	16	28	11
Banfield	19	2	7	10	13	26	11
Racing Córdoba	19	4	3	12	12	27	11

Relegation averages — (averages points per game obtained in last three seasons — bottom places — bottom two go down): Estudiantes La Plata 0.88; Union 0.78; Platense and Racing Córdoba 0.75; Banfield 0.57.

PARAGUAY

Play-off for vice-championship(1) Olimpia 9 points; (2) Sol de America 8; (3) Libertad and Colegiales 5; (5) General Caballero 4; (6) Nacional 2.

LEAGUE TABLES . . . LEAGUE TABLES . . . LEAGUE TABLES . .

BOLIVIA

Professional League first division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolivar	17	11	1	5	39	18	23
Blooming	16	10	2	4	24	12	22
Oriente	16	9	4	3	29	19	22
Petrolero	17	9	4	4	23	19	22
Real Santa Cruz	16	7	4	5	24	17	18
Destroyers	16	8	1	7	20	18	17
The Strongest	17	7	3	7	27	21	17
Always Ready	16	5	6	5	20	17	16
Wilsterman	17	6	3	8	19	18	15
San Jose	17	6	3	8	19	25	15
Aurora	17	6	3	8	26	24	15
Litoral	16	6	2	8	19	24	14
Ciclon	17	4	5	8	21	28	13
Universitario	17	5	2	10	11	35	12
Municipal	17	2	4	11	13	39	8

BOLIVIA

Super League (2nd stage)
(Final standings)

After 7 games — Group A; Atletico Mineiro 11 points; Flamengo 10; Palmeiras 7; Gremio Porto Alegre, Botafogo and Bahia 6; Santa Cruz and Corinthians 5. **Group B;** Cruzeiro 12; Sao Paulo 11; Fluminense 8; Caritiba and Vasco da Gama 6; Santon, Internacional Porto Alegre and Goias 4. (Flamengo, Cruzeiro, Atletico Mineiro and Internacional — group winners of both stages or runners-up if already qualified — play semi-fianls).

COLOMBIA

Professional League final round

After 10 games — 4 to go: (1) Independiente Santa Fe (0.25 bonus) 15.25; (2) Atletico Junior Barranquilla (0.25) and America Cali (1.25) 14.25; (4) Millionarios (2) 14; (5) Nacional Medellin (1.25) 13.25; (6) Deportivo Cali 8; (7) Independiente Medellin 4; (8) Deportivo Pereira 2.

ECUADOR

First Division (2nd stage)
final standings

Group A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona*	10	4	4	2	14	12	14
Filanbanco	10	5	3	2	21	7	13
Liga. dep. Univ de Quito	10	4	2	4	19	19	10
Aucas	10	4	2	4	13	14	10
Universidad Portoviejo	10	3	4	3	14	15	10
Tecnico Universitario	10	1	3	6	10	23	5
Group B							
Deportivo Quito	10	5	4	1	17	10	14
Audaz Octubrino	10	4	4	2	11	12	12
Macara	10	4	3	3	13	13	11
Emelec	10	4	2	4	16	12	10
Nacional**	10	3	3	4	14	15	10
Deportivo Cuenca	10	0	4	6	4	14	4

Top two of each section qualify for final round — * Two and ** one bonus point for finishing first and second in first stage of championship.

Final round, final standings. After 6 games — (1) Barcelona 9 points; (2) Filanbanco 7; (3) Audaz Octubrino 6; (4) Deportivo Quito 4. (Barcelona and Deportivo Quito totals include one bonus point for finishing top of their respective sections.) *One bonus point each ofr winning their respective groups in second stage of championship.

MEXICO

First Division

Group 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Univers. Autonoma Mexico	16	6	9	1	32	17	20
Guadalajara	16	8	4	4	24	14	20
Atlante	16	5	6	5	23	22	16
Angeles	16	5	5	6	24	30	15
Tampico-Madero	16	1	8	7	17	31	10
Group 2							
Univers. Guadalajara	16	10	3	3	35	19	23
Univ. Autonoma Guadalajara	16	8	5	3	27	16	21
Cruz Azul	16	5	6	5	21	23	16
Atlas	16	5	5	6	28	35	15
At Potosino	16	1	7	8	14	28	9
Group 3							
America	16	8	4	4	28	15	20
Puebla	16	8	4	4	28	20	20
Necaxa	16	5	6	5	15	18	16
Neza	16	5	3	8	22	31	13
Irapuato	16	3	3	10	13	27	9
Group 4							
Morelia	16	6	6	4	29	18	18
Monterrey	16	4	7	5	31	25	15
Toluca	16	6	3	7	17	19	15
Univ Aut Tamaulipas	16	5	4	7	19	29	14
Univ Nuevo Leon	16	5	4	7	16	26	14

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Larissa	15	10	3	2	31	12	23
PAOK	15	9	3	3	37	14	21
OFI Crete	15	10	1	4	35	20	21
AEK	15	7	6	2	30	19	20
Ethnikos	15	7	4	4	13	8	18
Panathinaikos	15	8	2	5	21	15	18
Aris	15	6	2	7	19	20	14
Iraklis	15	5	4	6	15	18	14
Olympiakos	15	3	7	5	16	24	13
Kalamaria	15	4	5	6	9	19	13
Panionios	15	3	6	6	15	17	12
Panserraikos	15	5	2	8	18	20	12
Diagoras Rhodes	15	4	3	8	24	20	11
Verria	15	4	3	8	16	37	11
Levadiakos	15	3	4	8	18	25	10
Panachaili	15	4	1	10	15	29	9

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Napoli	15	11	3	1	31	11	25
Milan	15	9	4	2	23	7	22
Roma	15	8	4	3	24	13	20
Sampdoria	15	7	6	2	20	12	20
Inter	15	6	5	4	22	18	17
Juventus	15	6	3	6	18	16	15
Cesena	15	5	5	5	13	14	15
Torino	15	3	8	4	18	19	14
Verona	15	4	6	5	15	16	14
Ascoli	15	4	5	6	19	19	13
Fiorentina	15	4	5	6	15	18	13
Pescara	15	5	3	7	14	27	13
Pisa	15	3	5	7	13	20	11
Como	15	2	6	7	12	24	10
Avellino	15	1	5	9	11	27	7
Empoli	15	3	5	7	9	16	6

Empoli began the season with a five-point penalty.

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Porto	16	13	3	0	42	9	29
Benfica	17	11	3	3	25	9	25
Boavista	17	8	6	3	18	12	22
Setubel	17	8	5	4	33	23	21
Belenenses	17	9	2	6	24	22	20
Chaves	17	8	4	5	34	18	20
Sporting	17	6	7	4	23	17	19
Guimaraes	17	6	6	5	27	20	18
Penafiel	17	5	8	4	19	19	18
Martimo	17	5	7	5	16	19	17
Elvas	17	4	8	5	21	20	16
Varzim	17	5	6	6	15	19	16
Espinho	17	4	7	6	13	17	15
Rio Ave	17	4	6	7	17	33	14
Academica	17	4	6	7	16	23	14
Braga	17	3	8	6	17	23	14
Farense	17	4	5	8	13	26	13
Portimonense	17	4	2	11	13	27	10
Salgueiros	16	2	6	8	12	23	10
Covilha	17	2	3	12	14	33	7

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	18	14	2	2	47	12	30
Real Sociedad	18	11	3	4	32	14	25
Atletico Madrid	18	11	3	4	30	15	25
Athletic Bilbao	18	7	7	3	28	20	23
Valladolid	18	8	5	5	15	14	21
Cadiz	18	8	4	6	22	22	20
Osasuna	18	7	5	6	18	15	19
Gijon	18	7	5	6	21	24	19
Sevilla	18	8	3	7	21	25	19
Zaragoza	18	6	6	6	29	27	18
Barcelona	18	8	2	8	25	25	18
Celta	18	6	6	6	20	20	18
Mallorca	18	6	4	8	24	28	16
Espanol	18	6	4	8	20	25	16
Valencia	18	6	4	8	20	27	16
Betis	18	6	2	10	21	23	14
Murcia	18	4	4	10	19	26	12
Las Palmas	18	5	2	11	19	23	12
Logrones	18	2	5	11	12	29	10
Sabadell	18	2	5	11	9	28	9

NORTHERN IRELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glentoran	12	8	3	1	21	9	27
Linfield	12	8	2	2	25	7	26
Coleraine	12	7	3	2	27	15	24
Glenavon	12	7	2	3	16	11	23
Newry Town	12	6	4	2	17	13	22
Ballymena	12	5	3	4	18	19	18
Portadown	12	5	2	5	13	9	17
Larne	11	5	1	4	11	13	16
Ards	12	4	3	4	15	13	15
Carrick	11	3	1	6	11	16	10
Cliftonville	12	2	3	7	9	22	9
Crusaders	12	2	3	7	11	18	9
Bangor	12	2	2	7	8	17	8
Distillery	12	1	0	11	8	27	3

CYPRUS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Apoel	8	7	1	0	22	8	15
AEL	8	6	1	1	22	10	13
Paralimni	8	4	4	0	18	9	12
Apollon	8	3	4	1	15	4	10
Pezoporikos	8	3	4	1	15	15	10
Omonia	7	3	3	1	17	9	9
Amortosi	8	4	1	3	15	13	9
EPA	8	4	1	3	10	13	9
Aris	8	2	2	4	14	18	6
Apop	8	1	4	3	10	14	6
Salamona	8	2	1	5	9	9	5
Etanikos	7	1	3	3	8	12	5
Apep	7	2	0	5	6	11	4
Alki	8	1	3	5	9	19	4
Anagenesis	8	2	0	6	8	20	4
Olympiakos	7	1	1	5	4	18	3

REP. IRELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dundalk	20	13	3	4	33	19	29
St Patrick's	20	11	5	4	35	15	27
Bohemians	20	10	7	3	40	23	27
Shamrock	20	9	7	4	35	20	25
Waterford United	19	7	8	4	30	18	22
Galway United	20	7	7	6	25	24	21
Cork City	20	7	6	7	25	35	20
Derry City	20	8	3	9	41	28	19
Shelbourne	20	5	4	11	19	27	14
Limerick	19	4	5	10	16	35	13
Sligo Rovers	20	4	3	13	22	49	11
Bray Wanderers	20	2	6	12	16	44	10

RUMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Steaua Bucarest	17	15	2	0	66	10	32
Din. Bucarest	17	14	2	1	39	12	30
Vict. Bucarest	17	10	1	6	28	20	21
Oteful	17	9	2	6	27	20	20
Flacara Moreni	16	7	4	5	18	18	18
Un. Cralova	17	7	3	7	25	28	17
Corvinul	16	7	2	7	30	26	16
Politehnica	17	6	4	7	21	21	16
FC Olt	17	7	2	8	24	34	16
Brasov	17	5	5	7	26	21	15
Asa Tirgu Mures	16	7	1	8	28	31	15
FC Arges	17	5	4	8	16	22	14
Sportful Bucarest	16	5	3	8	18	25	13
UC Napoli	17	4	5	8	18	28	13
Suceava	17	4	4	9	17	34	12
Bacau	17	3	6	8	15	32	12
Rapid Bucarest	17	3	5	9	13	29	11
Petrolul	17	3	5	9	12	30	11

MOROCCO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
WAC	9	6	2	1	16	7	23
KACM	9	4	4	1	11	3	21
KAC	9	4	4	1	7	3	21
IR Tangeri	9	4	3	2	8	4	20
Raja	9	5	1	3	7	5	20
Benslimane	9	2	6	1	10	9	19
Hilal	9	3	4	2	4	6	19
FAR	9	2	5	2	9	7	18
Hassania	9	3	3	3	9	6	18
Khouribga	9	3	3	3	8	7	18
Settat	9	2	4	3	9	10	17
FUS	9	2	4	3	10	12	17
MAS	9	2	4	3	7	9	17
Sidi Kacem	9	4	0	5	6	14	17
US Mohamm	9	2	2	5	6	10	15
MC Oujda	9	1	4	4	5	9	15
Chabab	9	0	6	3	2	7	15
Clas	9	1	3	5	5	11	14

● 3 points for a win, 2 for a draw.

ALBANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
17 Nentori	15	9	5	1	29	11	23
Flamurtari	14	8	3	3	23	15	19
Lokomotiva	15	7	4	4	19	14	17
Apolonia	14	8	1	5	21	12	17
Vilaznia	15	6	4	5	24	20	16
Besa	15	4	8	3	13	13	16
Labinoti	15	6	4	5	13	13	16
Skenderbeu	15	5	6	4	12	17	16
Partizani	15	6	3	6	24	21	15
Beselidhja	15	4	6	15	22	14	
Dinamo	15	3	6	6	18	18	12
Tomori	15	5	2	8	15	21	12
Luftetari	15	2	6	7	6	13	10
31 Korriku	15	2	0	13	11	33	4

COSTA RICA

First Division

(1) Alajuelense 24 points; (2) Herediano 21; (3) Puntarenas 20; (4) Cartajines, Saprissa 18; (6) San Carlos 16; (7) Guanacaste, San Ramon 15; (9) Curridabat 13; (10) Limon 10.

CHILE

First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Univ. Catolica	24	18	5	1	43	13	41
Colo Colo	24	12	9	3	34	21	33
Cobresal	24	9	10	5	36	28	28
Cobreloa	24	9	10	5	35	27	28
Fernandez Vial	24	9	8	7	28	22	27
Deportes Naval	24	7	10	7	31	34	24
Palestino	24	8	8	8	31	43	24
Universidad de Chile	24	7	9	8	28	28	23
Deportes Iquique	24	7	8	9	28	36	22
Everton	24	7	8	9	26	28	22
Huachipato	24	7	7	10	25	32	21
Deportes Concep.	24	6	9	9	27	28	21
Rangers de Talca	24	7	6	11	16	31	20
Union Española	24	5	9	10	20	30	19
Lota Schwager	24	6	7	11	19	27	19
San Luis	24	3	7	14	16	32	13

URUGUAY

First Division (final)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Defensor	24	14	5	5	32	18	33
Nacional	24	13	4	7	40	23	30
Bell Vista	24	11	6	7	35	25	28
River Plate	24	12	4	8	36	34	28
Wanderers	24	10	7	7	35	30	27
Danubio	24	10	5	9	29	21	25
Progreso	24	9	7	8	24	25	25
Peñarol	24	8	7	9	26	28	23
Cerro	24	6	9	9	18	24	21
Central Español	24	8	3	13	16	27	19
Miramar Misiones	24	5	8	11	31	42	18
Huracan Buceo	24	6	6	12	16	29	18
Rampla Juniors	24	4	9	11	19	31	17

Relegation points (obtained in last two seasons) bottom places: Rampla Juniors and Miramar Misiones 36 — to play off.

VENEZUELA

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Martimo	12	7	4	1	
Lara	12	6	5	1	17
Portuguesa	12	6	3	3	15
Universidad de los Andes	12	5	4	3	14
Pepeganga	13	5	3	5	13
Caracus FC	12	5	3	4	13
Mineros de Guyana	12	4	4	4	12
Zamora	13	3	5	5	11
Tachira	12	3	4	5	10
Estudiantes Merida	12	4	2	6	10
Italia	12	3	4	5	10
Anzoategui	12	4	2	6	10
Peninsulares de Araya	12	2	6	4	10
Univ Central Venezuela	12	1	3	8	5

GUATEMALA

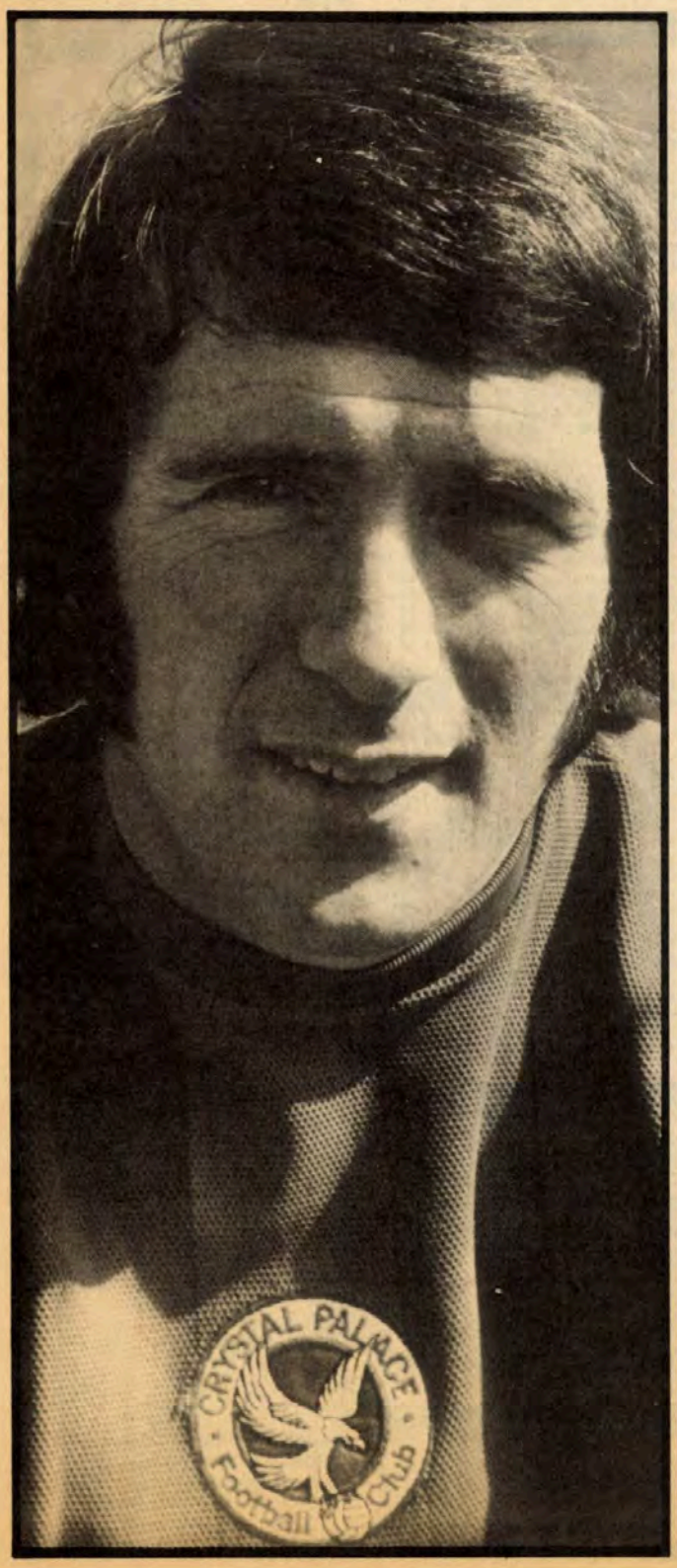
First Division final round
(One game to go)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aurora	5	3	2	0	6	1	8
Municipal	5	3	1	1	8	5	7
Comunicaciones	5	2	1	2	9	7	5
Coban	5	0	2	3	5	15	2

JORGE BURRUCHAGA, who scored Argentina's winner in their friendly against West Germany before Christmas.

TAYLOR TO COACH CANADA

from COLIN JOSE



TONY Taylor, who was a member of the Crystal Palace team that won promotion from the Second Division in 1969, and played almost 200 league games for the London club, is the new coach of Canada's national team.

A winger at the start of his career but later converted into a full back, Taylor's first task will be to prepare the Canadian team for a World Cup qualifying game against either Cuba or Guatemala probably next October.

Taylor succeeds Bob Bearpark, who took over from Tony Waiters following the 1986 World Cup finals which saw Canada qualify for the first time. Bearpark remains within the Canadian national team programme on the management side leaving Taylor free to concentrate on coaching.

Just recently Taylor coached Canada's national youth team in the FIFA World Youth Championship in Chile, and he has worked closely with Bearpark in the national team programme for several years.

Credit

Born in Glasgow, Taylor played first for Kilmarnock and then Celtic before moving on to Morton from where he was transferred to Crystal Palace. At Celtic he came under the influence of Jock Stein, while at Palace his coach was George Petchey, the two men he credits with influencing his coaching philosophy.

Also in line for the job of coaching Canada's national team were Bruce Wilson, who captained the team in the 1986 finals from left back and his fellow defender Bob Lenarduzzi.

Lenarduzzi remains as coach of the Vancouver 86ers of the Canadian Soccer League while Wilson was appointed coach of the Hamilton Steelers of the CSL shortly after Taylor was handed the national team job.

One of Taylor's main concerns as the vital World Cup games approach will be the availability of players playing overseas and in the Major Indoor Soccer League in the United States.

Currently central defenders Ian Bridge (La Chaux de Fonds), Randy Samuel (Volendam) and Terry Moore (Glentoran) are playing in Europe while experienced internationals such as goalkeeper Tino Lettieri, midfielder Gerry Gray and striker Dale Mitchell are just three of the players Taylor will hope to obtain from their MISL clubs.

Another player the Canadians will be interested in is Hamilton born striker Valerio Alesi, who was playing for Ascoli in Serie A before being drafted into the Italian army.

Meanwhile the four Canadian national team players who face charges of conspiracy to accept bribes at the Merlion Cup tournament in Singapore in 1986 have had their case set aside until December 16, 1988.

In the United States the Major Indoor Soccer League is celebrating its 10th anniversary. This season the league is operating with 11 clubs divided into two divisions. The Eastern Division comprises the Chicago Sting, Baltimore Blast, Cleveland Force, Dallas Sidekicks and the Minnesota Strikers, while the West consists of the San Diego Sockers, Tacoma Stars, Los Angeles Lazers, Kansas City Comets, St. Louis Steamers and the Wichita Wings.

Some well known names are associated with these clubs in the coaching ranks with Gordon Jago, the former manager of Queens Park Rangers in charge at Dallas, Dave Clements who appeared in 48 internationals for Northern Ireland coaching Kansas City, Alan Merrick (ex West Bromwich Albion) at Minnesota, Alan Hinton (ex Derby County) at Tacoma and former Chelsea favourite Charlie Cooke with Wichita.

Behind the bench in San Diego is Ron Newman, the former Portsmouth player who made a name for himself in the NASL coaching the Dallas Tornado and Fort Lauderdale Strikers before moving on to San Diego. Jago (Tampa Bay), Clements (Colorado) and Hinton (Seattle and Vancouver) also coached in the NASL before its demise in 1984.

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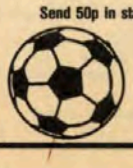

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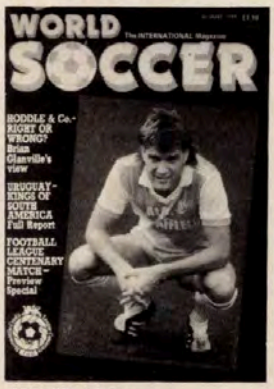

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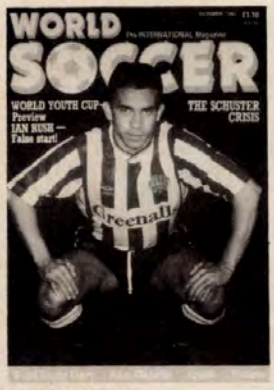

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